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Israel, Palestinians in marathon talks Jerusalemites can stand for elections; Arafat, Mubarak, Peres meet Wednesday

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday revealed details of the agreement Israel and PLO negotiators are trying to wrap up by July 25 to extend self-rule over the West Bank.

Israel would give in to one of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's main demands by allowing Arabs living in annexed East Jerusalem to run as candidates and not just vote in autonomy elections, Mr. Rabin said.

Candidates would have "double citizenship," he said, presumably meaning he would consider them Palestinian even though they live under Israeli sovereignty.

"On Jerusalem," there is just one problem," he told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, "where to put ballot boxes. Israel wants the 160,000 Arabs from Jerusalem to vote outside the city limits."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the PLO chairman, who have both predicted that an agreement will be signed in Washington early next month, are to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria on Wednesday.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the state of negotiations to spread self-rule were likely to top the agenda in the Egyptian port city.

Negotiators concentrated Monday on drawing up points of accord at their secluded hotel in Zichron Yaakov, near Haifa, state radio reported.

A news blackout has been declared until the deal is done to draft an agreement to redeploy troops outside Palestinian population areas, devolve civilian powers and hold autonomy elections.

A senior Israeli official, who refused to be named, said: "The aim of the negotiations is to draft the agreement and that involves legal technicalities."

The Israeli delegation includes some 30 legal experts and about 20 are in the PLO team, he said.

The official explained that major obstacles such as water-sharing, land and security would be left to Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Rabin told the committee that in a first stage of redeployment Israel would give the Palestinians total civilian and security control over Jenin, Nablus, Kalkilyah and Tulkarem.

When by-pass roads are completed around Ramallah and Bethlehem security powers would also be ceded to the Palestinians there too, he said.

He hoped the 15 main roads, costing \$50 million, would be completed by December.

"We will confiscate lands for this. Even the Palestinians understand that without these roads there is no solution to the problem."

The traditional site of the tomb of Joseph will also fall under Palestinian control, and the tomb of his mother Rachel will be a Jewish "island" in Palestinian territory, Israeli cabinet ministers have decided.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret called the decision, which was made public Monday, a dangerous precedent.

The West Bank towns of Bethlehem, site of Rachel's tomb, and Nablus, where Joseph's tomb is located, are supposed to be turned over to the Palestinians when autonomy is expanded beyond the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

At a cabinet meeting on Sunday, ministers decided that Israeli negotiators should insist on leaving Rachel's tomb as a Jewish-controlled "island" surrounded by Palestinian territory.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who is the PLO's tourism minister, has said the Palestinians should get control of Rachel's tomb.

The tomb, a small domed building with a tall white cupola inside, is venerated by both Jewish and Muslim pilgrims, especially women who come to pray for a child.

PLO officials accused Israel Monday of backtracking in the first day of round-the-clock talks.

"There has been a negative development," one PLO negotiator said. "Israeli negotiators have presented new initial ideas, which are a fallback on their previous stances regarding redeployment from village areas."

Israeli negotiators were unavailable for comment.

Under the peace deal sealed in 1993 with a historic White House handshake, Israel was expected to have withdrawn from West Bank Arab population areas a year ago for elections to a council that would run daily Palestinian life.

PLO officials said they expected the venue of the talks to be changed from Zichron Yaakov to Cairo next week. They said issues still outstanding were tough enough that the July 25 deadline for concluding an accord might have to slide.

"The bulk of the accord is already drafted, but the details and the maps require a lot of work, and the gaps on redeployment are still big," one PLO official said.

PLO officials said the heart of the dispute now was the redeployment away from village areas. They said Israel

King, Demirel discuss Bosnia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday exchanged views with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the assault waged by the Serb forces on the Bosnian people. In a telephone conversation with the Turkish president, King Hussein stressed the need for the international community to put an end to the tragic conditions of the Bosnian people. The King voiced Jordan's readiness to contribute to any efforts aiming to alleviate the sufferings of the Bosnian people and stopping the Serb aggression against Bosnian civilians.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives the meeting. Present at the audience were His U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson who voiced the Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chief his country's appreciation for King Hussein's efforts towards establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The U.S. administration highly appreciates the King's endeavours and strives to achieve peace and American citizens detained in Iraq (see stories stability in the region, said Mr. Richardson at pages 2 and 12) (Petra photo)

House panel demands equal Israeli treatment over 'land sale' issue

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Parliamentary committees on Monday voted in favour of conditioning land sale to the Israelis to equal, reciprocal treatment.

On its fourth meeting to review a draft law that repeals boycott of Israel, the Lower House of Parliament's joint Judiciary and Financial Committees introduced several amendments to the draft law that would make land sale to Israelis contingent on Israel making the same provision in its related legislation.

The chairman of the House's Judiciary Committee, Abdul Karim Dughmi, told the Jordan Times Monday that the amendments, that increase restrictions on land sale to foreigners, will be worked out in a joint meeting on Thursday between the chairmen of both committees.

These amendments are only aimed at putting some sort of a safeguard to protect Jordanian land and the Jordanian economy against foreign hegemony," said Dr. Dughmi. "But at the same time we tried to make the provisions balanced out so as not to influence prospects of investment in the Kingdom."

Several experts testified at the committees' meetings including ministers, economists and experts in international law. Dr. Dughmi said the observations made by the experts were very useful to the House's work especially in terms of the repercussions of selling land to foreigners on

the Jordanian economy. He said that the approved amendments were "very well balanced out."

"We made sure that the restrictions put on land sale to foreigners do not hamper investment in the country that is vital to its economic growth," Dr. Dughmi said.

But Dr. Hamman Sa'eed, a member of the House's Judiciary Committee, said that the law, regardless of the proposed amendments, was detrimental to the country's national interests.

"We are against the law in principle," said Deputy Sa'eed of the Islamic Action Front. "If this law was approved, then it will have grave consequences on the country's national interests."

Although they participated in all the previous meetings held on the draft law, the 16-member Islamic Action Front deputies withdrew from Monday's meeting.

Dr. Sa'eed said that the enactment of the law would open the door for foreign and Israeli hegemony over the country. He said that Jordan still has sovereignty over Jerusalem and the West Bank in international terms and opening land sale to Israelis meant that Arab territories in Jerusalem and the West Bank would be sold to Israel.

Jordan severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988.

"If the door was opened for land sale to foreigners, it would mean that many other concessions will follow," Dr. Sa'eed said.

(Continued on page 7)

Syria, Israel trade charges

DAMASCUS (Agencies)

Syria on Monday charged that early warning stations that Israel wanted to install on the Golan Heights after any withdrawal would be used for spying.

"The Israelis hold the Syrians to blame for the freeze in talks because it refuses to have spy stations on its oil," the official Syrian radio said in a commentary.

Damascus Radio accused Israel of "manoeuvring and planning to undermine the peace process by raising the issue of early warning stations which have been overtaken by new sophisticated techniques."

In Tel Aviv, meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that Syria's failure to resume peace talks with Israel at the level of military experts this month violated an agreement with the United States.

Asked if he agreed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that this was only a technical problem, Mr. Rabin told reporters: "I view it not as a technical matter but as a violation of an agreement."

Israel and Syria have for nearly four years been locked in slow-moving peace talks aimed at resolving the future of the Golan Heights captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and the terms of peace.

Under a deal brokered by the United States, Israeli and Syrian military experts were due to hold follow-up talks in Washington this month to negotiations in June between the army chiefs of the two longtime foes.

Mr. Christopher said Sunday their ambassadors would meet in Washington in the next two weeks.

"There is no freeze in the negotiations but a slowing down," Rabin told parliament.

He explained that Syria had agreed to three stages in talks on security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

A meeting between chiefs of staff in Washington June 27 and June 28; — a Middle East shuttle by a U.S. envoy last week;

— and a meeting between military officers, which has failed to materialise.

"Unfortunately the Americans have told me the Syrians no longer see any need to have the officers negotiate," Mr. Rabin said.

"They prefer talks between ambassadors. It's a violation of something that the Syrians and ourselves agreed. We agreed on a package deal which has been violated."

"It's a procedural question. But if we violate procedures who is to guarantee there will not be other violations," he asked.

Iraqi defence minister sacked; Baghdad threatens to halt cooperation with U.N.

BAGHDAD (Agencies)

Iraq's ruling Baath Party has decided to remove Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majeed from his post, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Monday.

"The leadership has decided to relieve Mr. Ali Hassan Al Majeed of his responsibilities as defence minister," INA said.

It said the decision was taken during a party meeting on Sunday, chaired by President Saddam Hussein. INA said the meeting, attended by the ruling Baath Party leaders, was held "to redistribute responsibilities" in the light of the results of a party conference held last week.

Meanwhile, President Saddam Hussein warned the United Nations on Monday that Iraq could not continue complying with demands to discontinue its arms programme without a lifting of crippling trade sanctions.

In an address, making the July 17 revolution that

brought the Baath Party to power 27 years ago, President Hussein said Iraq had honoured its obligations and demanded the U.N. do something in return.

"Iraq, its people and leadership, cannot continue complying with (U.N.) resolutions and meeting demands of the (U.N.) Special Commission (UNSCOM) if that is not linked to the lifting of sanctions," the president said.

UNSCOM is charged by the U.N. Security Council with ensuring Iraq complies with the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution by dismantling its weapons of mass destruction and destroying or rendering harmless the means to produce them.

"The concerned Iraqis have carried out whatever has been demanded from them in the (U.N.) Security Council resolution," President Hussein said.

"Now, after all this time, the sanctions on the Iraqi

people have not been removed. Time has come that the despots, responsible for the suffering of our people, should respond to what is fair and applicable to the resolutions they took."

Mr. Majeed, a cousin of President Hussein, has been entrusted with the leadership of party organisations in the Baghdad district of Al Karkh and the supervision of trade unions.

No reason was given for the decision and no one was nominated to assume the defence portfolio. Mr. Majeed's dismissal is the second cabinet reshuffle this month.

Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad was replaced by General Amir Rasheed, the head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Commission (MIC).

Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law of the president and minister of industry and minerals, now heads MIC.

In May, President Hussein dismissed his half-brother

Wabtan Ibrahim Al Hassan as interior minister and replaced him with Mohammad Zimam Abdul Razzaq, a member of the party's regional command.

The party held its conference on July 9 and reelected President Hussein as its chief. Mr. Majeed and other senior party members also kept their posts.

In a party address, carried by the official press on Saturday, President Hussein praised the performance of the armed forces under Mr. Majeed.

Iraq on Monday freed two Americans jailed in Iraq for illegally entering the country from Kuwait.

In an official statement, issued after the decision, President Hussein urged the United States as a superpower to take into account humanitarian considerations when dealing with the fate of nations, a reference to the continuing sanctions on Iraq.

(Continued on page 7)

Another Kabariti trip to Riyadh is expected 'soon'; second visit could open way for full reconciliation

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti will return to Riyadh "very soon" in what officials here believe will be the next step on the road to meaningful reconciliation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Kabariti, who ended a "successful" two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia Sunday, will be returning to the Saudi capital "very soon" to meet with Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz in a continuing bid to put Jordanian-Saudi relations back on their normal track, according to well-informed sources.

The sources said that while there were reports that the Saudis remained aloof during the minister's visit, the fact is that a "new rapport" has been established "after four long

years of estrangement and mutual suspicions."

"This reflects the emergence of a new atmosphere between the two sides, one that will be conducive to full reconciliation hopefully in a short period of time," one of the sources said.

News agency reports from Riyadh which spoke of the Saudi leadership remaining largely aloof to Jordan's latest effort to improve ties have based their analysis on the fact that Mr. Kabariti was not received by King Fahd.

The sources said that such a meeting "was never on the cards," and "in any way this will happen on the next visit by the foreign minister, which will take place very soon."

There was no confirmation of reports that a summit was being arranged between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd with most officials saying

that it was "too soon" to talk about this at the present. However, a Saudi-owned newspaper with well-established contacts with the Saudi regime attached the headline to its report on the foreign minister's visit: "Kabariti succeeds in his mission" to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Kabariti, upon returning to Amman Sunday evening, said that Riyadh will send an ambassador to Jordan to fill the post that has been vacant since 1990, adding that the move was part of a Jordanian-Saudi agreement to "break the ice" as a first step.

Jordanian officials said that several factors have contributed to the quickened pace of events towards opening the new dialogue between the two countries, not least of which is Jordan's proven record in its dealings with Baghdad which remains

under United Nations-imposed sanctions after its invasion of Kuwait.

The officials maintained that the Kingdom has been able to prove, over the past four years, that it abides by the clause of the U.N. resolutions against Baghdad while at the same time maintaining a political distance from the Iraqi regime.

Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries, and especially Saudi Arabia, were scarred by the Jordanian decision to stay out of the U.S.-led coalition of international forces that evicted the Iraqi army from Kuwait in 1991.

Jordan had repeatedly tried to signal that its stance during the Gulf war was not a policy against Kuwait or a condoning of Iraq's invasion but a position against the intervention of foreign countries in what it saw as a purely

Arab affair.

After the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October last year, however, a new Jordanian role emerged and it assumed prominence not only because Amman was the second Arab capital after Cairo to make peace with Israel but also because Jordan remained as an important gateway to Iraq under sanctions or without.

"Both ways Jordan is a winner," a well-placed source told the Jordan Times. "Amman is needed to maintain the embargo if it is to continue and it is also needed if the sanctions are lifted; both ways we cannot lose," the source added, explaining that Jordan has found strength at the international level as a result of its peace treaty with Israel as well as its position towards Iraq.

"This has come to be appreciated by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries."

During his visit Mr. Kabariti and Prince Saud held a two-hour "tête-à-tête" meeting which was followed by a private dinner at the Prince's house. Although the source who spoke to the Jordan Times, on condition of anonymity would not reveal the details of the discussions between Mr. Kabariti and Prince Faisal, one well-informed official told the Jordan Times that the two agreed that "tension over issues that were expected to be a problem appeared to have gone."

He was also referring to tension that grew last year over the guardianship of the Islamic Holy Places in Jerusalem. When Israel conceded that Jordan should continue to have a prominent role in guarding these places, Saudi Arabia indicated its clear dissatis-

faction with the development.

In the meeting between Prince Saud and Mr. Kabariti there was agreement between the two sides that "Jerusalem is not a problem," a well-informed source said.

"There may be need to talk about or discuss our positions later on, but there was no problem Monday," the source added.

The encounter between the two ministers came after a series of "secret and discreet communications" between Mr. Kabariti and Prince Saud that began after Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker formed his government in January of this year.

"There was a sequence of events that led to this week's meeting and hopefully would lead towards improved relations between the two countries," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

"It began with the exchange of messages between the two foreign ministers that were followed by the Bahraini foreign minister arranging a meeting between the two during the Cairo conference," the source said in reference to an earlier encounter held on the fringe of an Arab League foreign ministers' conference in Cairo in March.

"After the meeting the contacts continued between Amman and Riyadh through a series of letters from Amman that received positive responses from the Saudi side."

The exchange of letters, on technical aspects of the bilateral relationship, was accompanied with restraint by the Jordanian media against criticism of Saudi Arabia and its ruling family.

(Continued on page 7)

Americans arrive in Jordan after release from Iraq

TREBIL, Jordan (AP) — Two Americans freed from Iraqi prison arrived safely in Jordan Monday following a nighttime car journey from Iraq's capital of Baghdad.

William Barloon and David Daliberti, accompanied by U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson, crossed into Jordan at 8:15 a.m. (0515 GMT), a day after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein freed them from a maximum security prison outside Baghdad.

"I feel very great, very good," a beaming Barloon told reporters as he and Mr. Daliberti emerged from an Iraqi Foreign Ministry car and entered the VIP lounge at the Jordanian border post.

Mr. Barloon said he was looking forward to reuniting with his family. Mr. Daliberti stood next to him, refusing to say anything other than it's "a great day."

Neither would talk about their four-month imprisonment. The Americans were whisked away from the border in a U.S. embassy car. Other embassy cars followed on the 300-kilometre journey to Amman.

In Washington, the State Department welcomed the development. "We are pleased that Congressman Richardson was able to secure their release. And we want to express our appreciation for his humanitarian mission," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

The Americans spent Sunday evening in Baghdad before setting out before dawn on their lengthy drive to the Jordanian border. United Nations sanctions have restricted flights in and out of Iraq.

Speaking to reporters at the border, Mr. Richardson said Mr. Daliberti would accompany him to the United States later in the day, while Mr. Barloon had "other plans" for reuniting with his family.

Mr. Barloon's family lives in Kuwait, although his wife Linda was on business trip to Singapore Sunday when she learned of his release. Mr. Daliberti's family is in Florida.

Mr. Barloon, 39, and Mr. Daliberti, 41, were detained in southern Iraq on March 13 after straying across the border from Kuwait, where they were working for U.S. defence contractors.

Sentenced to eight years in prison, they were held for four months until Saddam released them following a personal appeal Sunday by Mr. Richardson, a New Mexico Democrat.

The release followed U.N. Security Council decision last week to extend trade sanctions against Iraq for another 60 days.

The United States has remained firmly committed to maintaining the sanctions, imposed after Saddam's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and threatened to use its veto power against any proposed relaxation.

However, Saddam was hoping that, with the sanctions biting ever deeper, his gesture will be rewarded with leniency at the next review of the embargo.

"The Iraqis raised the sanctions issue, but I made it clear that my interest was the humanitarian release of the two Americans," Mr. Richardson said in his meetings with Saddam and other officials in Baghdad.

"There were no deals, no agreements, no concessions," he stressed.

He said he had approached Iraq's mission at the United Nations in New York three months ago for permission to travel to Iraq to make an appeal on the Americans' behalf.

He said that on July 4 he received indications from the Iraqis that the Americans would be released on humanitarian grounds.

He said the Clinton administration knew about his plans and that he got "all types of support from the State Department logistically."

Asked if he thought the Iraq gesture would help improve relations with Washington, Mr. Richardson said the release was "a humanitarian step that makes the atmosphere better for improving the relationship, which is still rocky."



Americans David Daliberti (right) and William Barloon Monday smile upon arrival in Jordan. The two Americans, who had spent four months in an Iraqi jail for illegally entering Iraq, were freed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday (photo by Youssef Al Allan)

Heikal: Mubarak must share power

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian elder statesman Mohammad Hassanain Heikal, a man often portrayed as the conscience of the nation, has urged President Hosni Mubarak to share power so that the country does not fall apart when he goes.

In an interview published in the weekly magazine *Rose Al Youssef* Monday, Mr. Heikal said the army would have grabbed power if Mr. Mubarak had died in the attack on his motorcade in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on June 26.

The assassination attempt had been a golden opportunity for Mr. Mubarak to make constructive changes but the people in power had abused it to preserve the status quo, he said.

"The army would have come in and taken power. There's no vice president and the government there is no credibility. What I would have expected is that the army would have stretched out its hand and taken power," he said.

"The army is forbidden territory which we don't speak about or know what's in it, so in this case we have no idea what the next govern-

ment would be, and that's the disaster," he added. Government officials have avoided discussing the succession question since the Addis Ababa incident, saying only that the constitution provides for a smooth transition.

But in practice no civilian politician has the stature or the power base to fill Mr. Mubarak's shoes with ease.

Mr. Heikal, a widely published author and journalist who was a minister and close confidant of former President Gamal Abdul Nasser, said his greatest concern was for the survival of the Egyptian state and Mr. Mubarak's death could endanger that.

"If the symbol of the state (Mubarak) had gone in these circumstances, without a way to transfer power, we would be faced with unknown quantities which could lead to the state falling apart," he said.

Mr. Heikal criticised the sloganising and sycophantic acts of homage to Mr. Mubarak which filled the state media for days after the Addis Ababa incident, widely blamed on Muslim militants.

"The cameras showed pic-

tures of animals being slaughtered dripping with blood (in celebration). They didn't stop to discuss what had happened," he said.

"The answer to the people should have been: 'Now I realise how much you depend on me and my first duty is to spare you the danger of relying on one individual'," he added.

"Power is now concentrated in the hand of the president... So he must say to people: 'My duty, after the anxiety you felt, is to reduce the dependence on one person. Come let's do this and that.' But so far that hasn't happened," he said.

Asked about "terrorism", the government's term for political violence by Muslim militants seeking to overthrow Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Heikal said he did not believe in the term.

"Society has overt violence, which is worrying. But to call it terrorism is a mistake. There were fewer killed in the Suez War (1956) than in the last few years," he said.

More than 800 people have been killed since 1992 in the conflict between the police and Muslim militants.

Turkish protesters denounce Ghali for Bosnia war

ISTANBUL (AP) — Calling the U.N. secretary-general an "enemy of Islam", political leaders staged rallies Sunday to blame him for the bloodshed in Bosnia and denounced his planned visit to Turkey.

Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian-born Christian, is scheduled to arrive Tuesday to discuss preparations for a U.N. summit next year. He also plans meetings with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and other officials during the four-day visit.

Turks are angered by the lack of international will to battle Bosnian Serbs, who have targeted U.N.-protected Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. Thousands of refugees have fled the Serb advance and Muslim men and boys were captured.

"Ghali is known as a murderer. He is... an enemy of Islam," said Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Muslim fundamentalist Welfare Party at a rally in Istanbul. He accused the government of "committing a crime by inviting him."

Bulent Ecevit, a former prime minister and head of the Democratic Left Party, said in an interview with the Istanbul daily *Milliyet*: "Ghali may not be the only name in the U.N.'s incompetence in Bosnia, but his responsibility is great." He said he did not plan to meet him.

The Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association, in a written statement, held the secretary-general responsible for "the murder of 300,000 Muslims in Bosnia" and called for the visit to be cancelled.

Honouring Dr. Ghali with a reception fit for a head of state would "hurt the dignity of the people of Turkey," said Imren Aykut, assistant secretary-general of the main opposition Motherland Party. She appealed high government officials to snub Dr. Ghali.

A Bosnian Muslim group that marched down Istanbul's main street last week called the visit an insult to Turkey's Muslims. "Murderer Ghali, don't come to Turkey," they chanted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran seeks repayment of Israeli debt

NICOSIA (R) — Iran is seeking to collect at least \$4 billion in debt owed to it by Israel partly for oil sales since before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported Sunday. It quoted parliament member Hojatoleslam Hussein Sobhanian as saying in a newspaper interview that the parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission was seeking to recoup the debt also owed from defence purchases and a pipeline project in Aqaba Port. "Regarding the money owed to Iran by Israel, I should say that after investigations we found they owe Iran more than \$3.4 billion," it quoted him as telling Kayhan International. "Taking into account the interest accumulated from these debts and investments by the Pahlavi regime the amount now exceeds \$4 billion. 'We will continue our efforts in this respect,'" he said. It was not immediately clear whether the figure was part of the \$8 billion which commission member Hassan Qashqavi said in May that Iran was trying to recoup from Israel for investments made by Tehran before the revolution.

Sudan appoints ambassador to S. Arabia

DUBAI (R) — Sudan has appointed an ambassador to Saudi Arabia, a post which has been vacant for at least three years, Sudanese diplomats said Sunday. They told Reuters that Sudan's Foreign Ministry approved the appointment to Riyadh of Abdullah Ahmad Al Bashir, formerly an envoy to Germany. Its last ambassador to Saudi left in 1992. Impoverished Sudan was among the Arab states which lost vital Gulf Arab political and financial support for appearing to sympathise with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha was in Bahrain Sunday as part of a tour of Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, to rally support for Khartoum in a row with Cairo. He has also been to United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar.

U.N. team leaves for Baghdad

MANAMA (AFP) — U.N. experts left for Baghdad Monday to see if Iraq was nearer fulfilling a promise to disclose all its germ warfare secrets by the end of July, a spokesman said. Eight experts left on a mission to study a Spurtzel left Bahrain for a week-long mission to study a report Iraq had promised to release on its biological weapons programme, the U.N. official said. U.N. officials said the germ warfare issue was the only obstacle to lifting the sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 1990. The U.N. Security Council maintained the sanctions at a regular review on July 11. Rolf Ekens, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament of Iraq, said after a visit here three weeks ago that Iraq had promised a "full, final, and complete disclosure of all aspects" of the programme by the end of July. After having denied for years having ever produced biological weapons or agents, Iraq admitted in June to having developed an offensive germ warfare programme between 1985 to 1990, just before the U.S.-led war to liberate Kuwait.

Israel takes in 750 informers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has re-settled 750 Palestinian informers and their families inside the Jewish state in recent months to protect them from revenge attacks, a newspaper reported Monday. The daily *Haaretz* said several hundred more families would also be moved from the West Bank, where their lives may be in danger, before autonomy spreads over the territory. The Defence Ministry estimates the number of collaborators at 1,500 or a total of 6,000 people including their dependents. The "rehabilitation" operation, which will cost several million dollars, is being led by reserve General Menachem Eitan, who was appointed to the post by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in February, the newspaper said. "The Israeli government considers it has a moral responsibility to ensure the personal security and rehabilitation of those who help us and who are now seeking our assistance," Gen. Eitan told *Haaretz*. However he admitted that re-settlement conditions did not always meet the collaborators' expectations. Informers regularly take part in interrogations and torture of Palestinian suspects, according to human rights groups. The mayors of several Arab towns within Israel have in recent months protested at attempts to settle collaborators in their areas. And some Jewish municipal officials have refused to accept Palestinian informers fearing trouble and revenge attacks.

Arafat's support down in West Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's support in the West Bank and Gaza dropped during recent talks with Israel on expanding Palestinian self-rule, a poll showed. A survey of 1,109 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and self-rule Gaza conducted by the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies (CPRS) showed Mr. Arafat would win 49.3 per cent of the vote if elections to a self-rule council were held now. A poll conducted by the same group in March 1995 showed Mr. Arafat would win 56.5 per cent of the vote. Only 31 per cent of those questioned had a positive view of how Mr. Arafat's Palestinian authority is managing negotiations with Israel, with 29 per cent saying it was fair and 26 per cent finding it weak, the poll said. The poll support for two other Palestinian figures remained stable. Mr. Arafat's main rival, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the jailed leader of the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement, would win 13.4 per cent of the vote, compared to 13.5 per cent in March, the poll said. Former Palestinian peace negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi, who has criticised Mr. Arafat for not being democratic enough, came a distant third with 7.6 per cent, identical to his showing in March. George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine got almost four per cent while the remainder went to "others."

Saudis move decisively to settle border problems

DUBAI (R) — Oil giant Saudi Arabia is moving decisively to settle border problems that have often soured ties with neighbours in the strategic region, which controls two thirds of world oil reserves, diplomats in the Gulf said.

The vast desert kingdom's failure to delineate thousands of kilometres of land frontiers with seven neighbours had led to charges that even where it did not covet their territory, it appeared insensitive to concerns of the smaller states around.

Gulf diplomats said the sparsely-populated state of 17 million people, which has 10 times the area of Britain and double that of South Africa, appears to have found a new determination to settle outstanding border issues.

"They (the Saudis) are moving quickly to end these problems once and for all," one Gulf diplomat said.

"They appear to have decided that these problems were not worth the hassle, were undermining Saudi leadership in the region and giving the country a bad name... They are better off without them," he added.

"Saudi leaders want to put these (border) problems behind them and focus on important geo-political and domestic issues," said another.

He spoke of Riyadh's concerns about potential threats from two other regional giants — Iran and Iraq — about Saudi Arabia's own troubled economy and the drive to contain the spread of Muslim fundamentalist extremism at home.

Saudi Arabia's northern borders with Jordan and Iraq were largely settled in the 1920s.

Riyadh has moved so far this year to settle its border with the United Arab Emi-

rates (UAE), signed a border deal with Oman and a framework for delineating its border with Yemen, and is reported to be preparing for a border settlement with Kuwait.

The diplomat said there were also hopes of early moves to settle a ticklish border problem with Qatar, which led to a bloody clash three years ago, after Qatar's crown prince replaced his father as emir last month.

The moves came after an annual summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE decided last December to try to resolve all regional border issues by the time its leaders meet again in Muscat next December.

The diplomats said this was taken at the time as another statement of GCC ambition that fell far short

of reality. "But the Saudis have delighted their neighbours by moving swiftly to fulfil this promise," one Arab diplomat said.

Saudi Arabia's founding King Abdul Aziz unified the heartland of the Arabian peninsula by military conquest before establishing his kingdom in 1932.

The failure of his heirs to delineate borders with their neighbours left some of the smaller states wondering about Saudi intentions, with some suspecting Riyadh might one day want to create a greater Saudi Arabia, the diplomats said.

Western diplomats in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf dismiss these fears as unfounded, noting that Riyadh has formally recognised all its neighbours and has been effective leader of the GCC that includes most of them.

But it has in the past

sought minor territorial adjustments.

This included areas of oil potential like its borders with Yemen, the UAE and Kuwait or of strategic importance like the Khor Al-Udaid just south of the Qatar peninsula which it has acquired under a deal with the UAE that gave it naval access to the lower Gulf for the first time.

Diplomats attribute the snail's pace of border settlement in the past largely to traditional Saudi caution and Riyadh's slow-moving foreign policy machine.

"I don't think the Saudis are starting to give anything away," a senior Western diplomat said of the latest moves.

"But they seem to think that the greater concern now was their credibility as the leaders of the Gulf, which is undermined by any claims on the territories of those same Gulf neighbours," he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

- 14:00 Captain Planet
- 14:30 Mantis
- 15:00 Road to Avonlea
- 16:00 Families
- 17:00 Spies
- 17:30 Monty Python
- 17:50 Tarzania
- 19:00 News in French
- 19:15 Fast Forward
- 19:30 News Headlines
- 19:35 You Be Your Life
- 20:00 Piglet Files
- 20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
- 21:15 Urban Angels
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:25 Death of Apartheid
- 23:30 New York Undercover
- 23:59 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:05 Fajr
- 06:37 Sunrise/Dhuha
- 12:42 Dhuhr
- 16:22 Asr
- 19:47 Maghrib
- 21:19 Isha

CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

- Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.
- Min/Max temp. Amman 18/30
- Aqaba 25/37
- Desert 7/55
- Jordan Valley 13/34

Yesterdays high temperatures:

- Amman 30, Aqaba 36, Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

- AMMAN: Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301
- Dr. Fayez Dabbas 759155
- Dr. Isam Asmar 895914
- Dr. Rizeq Abu Zuhair 894295
- Firas pharmacy 661912
- Ferdous pharmacy 776336
- Al Asma pharmacy 637055
- Naimah pharmacy 636762
- Al Salam pharmacy 636731
- Yacoub pharmacy 644445
- Shmouni pharmacy 637661
- Naroukh pharmacy 626762
- Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

- Dr. Ali Al Omani 272032
- Alquds pharmacy 771111

ZARQA:

- Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah 913644
- Khalifah pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

- Food Control Centre 637111
- Civil Defence Department 661111
- Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 620341
- Civil Defence Emergency 199
- Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
- Fire Brigade 617101
- Blood Bank 775121
- Highway Police 843402
- Traffic Police 896390
- Public Security Department 630321
- Hotel Complaints 645840
- Price Complaints 661176
- Water and Sewerage 897467
- Amman Municipality 771111
- Complaints 787111
- Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
- Overseas Calls 0102701
- Central Amman Telephone 623101
- Abdull Telephone Repair 661101
- Jordan Television 771111
- Radin Jordan 774111
- Water Authority 669100
- Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

- AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
- Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
- Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
- Jabal Amman Maternity 642812
- Malhas, J. Amman 636140
- Palestine, Shmebani 661714
- Shmebani Hospital 669131
- University Hospital 845845
- Al-Mushtak Hospital 867279
- The Islamic, Abdali 661277
- Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
- Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771015
- Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7251126
- Army, Marka 891611/15
- Queen Alia Hospital 666100
- Amal Hospital 607155
- The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865194

ZARQA:

- Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)80323
- Zarqa National Hospital (09)80323
- Ibn Sina Hospital (09)80323
- Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)80323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

- 05:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
- 06:00 Damascus (RJ)
- 06:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
- 06:15 Aqaba (RJ)
- 06:30 Beirut (RJ)
- 06:30 Doha (RJ)
- 06:45 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
- 07:15 London (RJ)
- 07:45 Detroit (RJ)
- 07:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 08:40 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
- 09:00 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 04:20 Vienna (OS)
- 09:45 Cairo (MS)
- 13:40 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
- 14:00 Munich (YP)
- 14:00 Riyadh (add) (SV)
- 14:20 Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

- 06:45 Beirut (RJ)
- 06:50 Aqaba (RJ)
- 07:20 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
- 12:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
- 12:05 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
- 12:45 Geneva, Brussels (GF)
- 12:55 Paris (RJ)
- 13:15 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
- 13:55 London (RJ)
- 14:45 Montreal (RJ)
- 15:00 Madrid (RJ)
- 15:30 Beirut, Larnaca (RJ)
- 15:30 Jeddah (RJ)
- 15:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
- 16:45 Damascus (RJ)
- 22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
- 22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
- 06:45 Beirut (MS)
- 06:45 Cairo (ME)
- 13:40 Vienna (OS)
- 14:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
- 14:55 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
- 15:20 Damascus (AZ)
- 15:30 Riyadh (add) (SV)
- 22:00 Aqaba (RJ)
- 06:25 Amsterdam (KL)
- 01:55 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:15 every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fks per kg.

- Apple 700/500
- Banana 620
- Banana (Mukammal) 680
- Cabbage 120/80
- Carrot 220/140
- Cauliflower 360/250
- Cucumbers (large) 120/80
- Cucumbers (small) 220/150
- Eggplant 170/100
- Garlic 650/450
- Grapes 500/350
- Lemon 540/450
- Marrow (large) 240/180
- Marrow (small) 240/180
- Milkfish 120/80
- Okra 120/80
- Onion (dry) 750/600
- Onion (wet) 170/100
- Paprika 340/250
- Potato (new) 240/170
- Potato (old) 200/120
- String Beans 330/220
- Sweet Melon 270/180
- Tomato 180/100
- Water Melon 100/50

Queen Noor urges decisive action to end Bosnian civilian suffering

AMMAN (J.T.) - Her Majesty Queen Noor has sent a letter of appeal to the wives of world heads of state and heads of government, to leaders, peace activists, to Muslim and to non-Muslim alike, urging them use their efforts to help end the ordeal and the suffering of the Bosnian people.

I am writing you today to share with you my anguish and shock at the recent turn of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to urge you to act in the name of compassion and political solidarity for the rights and dignity of all human beings, said the Queen's message.

The brutalisation of innocent Bosnian civilians has now been compounded by flagrant contempt for the force of law that binds us in

a civilised community of nations, said the Queen.

If the UN-designated safe havens in Bosnia are allowed to be overrun by Serbian aggressors, such a precedent would make a mockery of the concepts of the rule of law and collective international action for peace and security. This could imperil the national rights and well-being of other countries throughout the world, the Queen's message warned.

While political leaders around the world consult about the most appropriate diplomatic or military responses, I feel strongly that we can use our personal influence to work towards two immediate aims: to generate fresh material assistance to alleviate the suffering of Bosnian civilians who

are being subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment and to affirm the integrity of the political will and force of law of the international community, as expressed through the United Nations, the message read.

I urge you to consult quickly, the Queen said, with the political and humanitarian organisations in your country in order to raise the level of our collective action for peace and justice to a more effective level.

Let us act firmly together, the Queen's message urged, to help end this dangerous and degrading cycle of political and ethnic militarism that may spread around the world if it is not firmly suppressed today in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Israeli abuses of human rights continue -- report

AMMAN (Petra) - Despite Palestinian Israeli agreements, Israeli authorities are going ahead with plans to Judaize the Palestinian territories in violation of all international laws, a report on the situation in Israeli-held Arab lands, published by Palestine Affairs Department Monday said.

The report pointed in particular to the ongoing excavation work under holy shrines, including Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Digs were causing damage to nearby schools and archaeological sites, the report revealed.

Muslim authorities entrusted with safeguarding

the mosque and holy shrines have repeatedly protested against the Israeli digs which in the past two months have caused the collapse of part of the Omariyah school near Al Aqsa Mosque, the report stated.

The Israelis have furthermore prevented workers employed by the Waqf department from entering the area to inspect the extent of damage and Waqf authorities have protested against the Israeli decision to ban Muslims from reaching Al Aqsa mosque for prayers and have alerted Arab and Muslim states and world organisations of the dangers of these practices,

the report said.

Israelis were going ahead with building settlements in various parts of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the report added, while Israelis have stormed a number of Arab homes for resettlement purposes in the past month and Israeli bulldozers were still at work around the city.

Israelis still hold more than 6,000 Arab detainees in miserable conditions and continue to subject them to torture.

The report said that 1,375 Arabs have been killed by the Israeli forces since the beginning of the intifada in 1987.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Monday talks to Russian Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Saltanov about his country's participation in the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (Petra photo)

Russia to take part in MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) - Russian Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Saltanov said Monday that his country will take part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit due to be held in Amman in October and will call on government-sponsored companies in his country to help in the execution of Jordanian projects, especially those connected with irrigation.

The ambassador, who was

speaking at a meeting with Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, said that Russia was willing to back efforts for the establishment of the projected MENA Development Bank.

The minister discussed the objectives of the MENA summit and the on-going preparations in Jordan for ensuring its success. She said that the private and public sectors are combining their efforts in preparing

plans for the projects at local and regional levels to be presented to the forthcoming conference.

Dr. Khalaf and the ambassador also reviewed Russian-Jordanian relations and discussed economic developments in the Russian Federation.

Present at the meeting were senior Ministry of Planning officials and Russian embassy staff.

Israeli-Arab businessmen arrive to attend trade talks with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) - The first executive meeting between Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen will open in Amman today under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The highlight of the opening ceremony will be an address by the Crown Prince to be followed by a talk by the head of the Palestinian-Israeli delegation, Sami Shahin, who is also president of the Nazareth Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

The Executive Chairman of the Hashemite Association Mr. Ma'an

Zabian will also give a welcoming address at the opening ceremony. The meeting is sponsored by the Hashemite Association.

More than 150 Palestinian-Israeli businessmen as well as a similar number of Jordanian counterparts are expected to attend the three-day meeting and deliberate over ways to re-establish economic links between the two sides.

The Palestinian-Israeli group, who arrived in Amman via the Sheikh Hussein bridge said that they will discuss means of initiating trade and economic relations with the Kingdom.

In a statement upon arrival here Mr. Shahin said: "we Palestinian-Israeli businessmen have come here to get acquainted with Jordanian businessmen and are making the attempt following half a century of non-existence links. We also intend to visit our relatives and friends in the Kingdom."

According to Mr. Shahin, the delegation represents 19 different Arab towns and villages and talks will centre on areas of cooperation between the two sides.

Sharif Zeid briefs visiting students on Jordanian concern over Bosnia crisis

AMMAN (Petra) - Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday called for stepped-up international efforts to halt the inhuman practices against the Bosnian population.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with a delegation of British and United States students, who are currently on a visit to Jordan, the Prime Minister said the world community should not sit passively and watch the deteriorating situation in former Yugoslavia with arms folded.

The Prime Minister, who was speaking two days after His Majesty King Hussein voiced Jordan's condemnation of the heinous crimes committed by the Serbs against the Bosnian population, reiterated Jordan's deep concern over human rights violations and the aggression to which the Bosnian people are being subjected.

In reference to the Palestine question and the Middle

East peace process, the Prime Minister said that Jordan was ready to provide all possible assistance to the Palestinian people to enable them to establish their own independent state on Palestinian soil.

Speaking in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, the Prime Minister stressed that Jordan was against all forms of violence and terrorism, and that the country desired nothing more than friendly relations with all nations in general and Arab countries in particular.

The delegation was earlier received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, who briefed the visiting students on Jordan's history and explained the educational system in the Kingdom as well as the Ministry of Education's projected improvement on the quality of school education.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Monday meets with a delegation of students from the U.K. and U.S. and briefs them on Jordan's concern over human rights violations against Bosnian civilians. (Petra photo)

Jordan Television to dedicate Friday in aid of Bosnians

House condemns inhuman treatment of Bosnians

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan Television will dedicate a special programme Friday July 21 to collect contributions from Jordanian citizens and institutions as aid relief for Bosnian civilians, a statement said, after a meeting was held to discuss financial assistance to the Bosnian people.

The decision was taken by representatives of Jordan Radio and Television, Jordan News Agency, Telecommunications Corporation, the Hashemite Charity Organisation, and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs who held the meeting Monday in order to discuss methods of assistance to Bosnian civilians.

Also Monday, the Lower House of Parliament expressed Jordanian people's condemnation of the brutal massacres committed against the Bosnian population at the hands of Serbian

forces and urged the world community to honour its commitments by providing protection to Bosnian civilians.

The world community and various world parliaments should exert all efforts towards the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the situation in Bosnia, a statement issued by the House said.

Serbian attacks have caused the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians and the displacement of tens of thousands of others as well as the demolition of homes, the statement said.

The House has been following the news about the appalling massacres and is calling on the world community to honour its obligation and provide protection to the local civilian population of Bosnia and to allow them to acquire the arms

needed for self-defence.

The statement appealed to all world parliaments, including the European parliament to place pressure on their governments to take action on the implementation of U.N. resolutions and to help find a just settlement to the crisis and halt the massacre of innocent civilians.

The statement voiced Jordanian people's full support for the Bosnians and urged Jordanians to extend all forms of aid to the Bosnian people.

Following the statement, House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour said that Jordan was keen on taking on its humanitarian role in assisting Bosnians and that the world community is bound by duty to stop the brutal attacks on civilians and to safeguard the human rights of the Bosnian people.

Mafrag farmers complain to premier of low tomato prices

AMMAN (J.T.) - Farmers from the Mafrag governorate Monday complained to the government over what they considered a low price rate of tomatoes produced by their farms and sold to the tomato processing plant in Mafrag.

A group of tomato producers voiced their complaints to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at a meeting in his office attended by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and Minister of State Mohammad Abu Aleem, both house deputies from the Mafrag district.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the farmers as

saying that the recently fixed government price of JD 50 a tonne of tomato brought to the plant for processing was not fair and would not enable the farmers cover the cost of production inputs.

The farmers expressed hope that the government would raise the price rate of tomatoes to ensure a reasonable margin of profit for the producers.

In reply the prime minister promised that the government will look into the problem as soon as possible and will try to serve the farmers justice.

Jordan processes tomato at three plants: one at Ghor

Safi in the south, another at Arida west of Amman and the third at Mafrag and the government normally fixes the price rates of tomatoes sold to these plants for processing.

According to Petra, the government had recently taken a decision to fix the price of these tomatoes at JD 50 a tonne, scrapping an earlier rate of JD 30 to JD 60 per tonne of tomatoes depending on the quality of tomatoes.

It said that the new rate was considered by the government as fair because it does not leave room for misjudgment of the quality of tomatoes on the part of the processing plant.

Dairy producers give in to price rise terms

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman - Dairy producers on Monday decided to cancel a planned strike and to give in to terms spelled out by the Ministry of Supply on the price increases of fresh milk as well as other dairy products.

In a meeting held by ten dairy producers at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, dairy producers agreed to buy fresh milk for the new price of 230 fils per litre, and to sell dairy products according to the new rates which were set by committee members from the Ministry of Supply, Ministry of Agriculture and

the Ministry of Trade and Industry, plus representatives of dairy producers.

In a statement sent to the Ministry of Supply, producers hoped that the ministry would form a technical committee to study the cost of production in light of the rise in production input.

The Ministry of Supply says representatives of dairy producers in the committee, agreed on the price hikes of the dairy products, which allows for a 10 per cent profit margin for dairy producers.

"They changed their mind, and called for a strike because they are greedy," said Head of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of

Supply, Ahmad Theban. The dispute erupted when the Ministry of Supply had to increase the prices of fresh milk on September 10th from 210 fils to 230 fils per litre, due to the pressure the ministry faced from cow breeders when prices of animal feed rose in the international market.

The decision will cost us an average loss of JD 13,000 a month despite the new increase in dairy product prices, said Mr. Omar Horani, deputy general of Jordanian Dairy Products.

"We want the increase in the prices of the dairy products to be equal to the increase in milk prices," Mr. Horani added.

What's going on

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions

LECTURE AND SEMINAR

*Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Relationship between the Palestinian National Council and the Palestinian National Authority" by PNC Acting Speaker Salim Za'noun at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6.30 pm.

*Seminar in Arabic entitled "The Modern Poem in Jordan" with the participation of Ahmad Muslih and Dr. Salah Jarrar at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7.00pm.

NEWS

*ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center on Thursday at 5.00pm.

EXHIBITION

*Exhibition in honour of Palestinian intifada victims and detainees at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation

*Works by Khdeir Shukrati at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

*Paintings by Adnan Yahya at Darat Al Funun.

*Exhibition on the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Sri Lankan rebels admit losing 80, including women

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas have admitted losing 80 fighters, including women suicide bombers, in land and sea battles in their northern Jaffna stronghold since Friday, residents said Monday.

They quoted the rebel radio station as saying 17 "Sea Tigers," all but one women, were killed in a battle at sea off the Jaffna peninsula Sunday. Three of the women were "Black Tiger" suicide fighters, they said.

Tiger radio also said 63 rebels were killed Friday in a major counter-attack on government troops who had advanced to within six kilometres of Jaffna city in a week-long offensive.

The Sri Lankan military said Monday that 17 rebels, apparently on reconnaissance missions, were killed on the Jaffna peninsula Sunday evening and Monday morning.

Tiger radio promised more counter-attacks on the army, said the residents on arrival at Vavuniya, the northernmost town under government control.

They said one civilian was killed and five were wounded in heavy army shelling of the peninsula Sunday.

Sunday's naval battle included the sinking of a navy command ship by Tiger divers who attached time bombs to it as Tiger boats made diversionary attacks, a military spokesman said Monday.

A navy Dvora-class fast-attack craft taking part in the battle in which three Tiger

boats were sunk, captured two women rebels swimming in the area after the fight, he told Reuters. "There were three female cadres swimming in the area," he said. "When our Dvora went to pick them up, one swallowed cyanide. We captured the other two."

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east, wear cyanide capsules around their necks and often swallow them if in danger of capture.

Tiger radio said only one boat was lost in the attack, residents told Reuters.

The command ship, one of three used to monitor northern waters and guide navy patrols to intercept rebel boats, sank after it was holed in two places.

The attack was the second in the same place in the past year — Sea Tiger divers sank a similar ship there in August — and was similar to an attack on April 19 in which two Shanghai-class gunboats were sunk in the eastern port of Trincomalee.

That attack broke a 14-week truce and brought to a halt peace talks on ending a 12-year ethnic war in which the government says more than 80,000 people have been killed.

Since the truce ended, more than 600 rebels, soldiers and civilians have been killed.

The spokesman said government troops who pushed

close to Jaffna City were consolidating their positions and conducting search operations for rebels in captured territory.

The army says 64 soldiers and a "large number" of rebels have died in an offensive codenamed Operation Leap Forward.

Rebel radio said Saturday 150 soldiers and 50 Tamil Tiger rebels had been killed since the offensive began and hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians had fled their homes.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says more than 100 people, mostly civilians, have been killed.

At least 30 people were killed when a Tamil Tiger guerrilla truck, packed with arms and explosives, blew up accidentally in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula, press reports here said Monday.

Tamil sources travelling from the region, which is dominated by the LTTE, said a blast had occurred at Thavadi Saturday but had no casualty figures.

The state-run daily Observer said 30 people, including civilians, died in the accident, which occurred as security forces continued the offensive.

Meanwhile Sri Lankan authorities were trying to establish the identity of 21 Sri Lankans found dead inside a truck in western Hungary, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The Sri Lankans were found dead, probably from

heat asphyxiation, Saturday in a truck in a parking lot near the town of Győr.

Earlier reports from Hungary said that 18 had died.

The Foreign Ministry said its consul in Hungary would visit some of the survivors Monday and try to establish the identity of the victims.

The ministry was exploring the possibility of bringing the bodies home, an official said.

Nineteen Sri Lankans who survived the journey said they had each paid \$800 to human smugglers who had disappeared along with the driver when the truck was discovered.

The surviving Sri Lankans, who boarded the truck in Romania on Thursday, were severely dehydrated and taken to a hospital in Győr in "very bad condition," a Hungarian police spokesman said.

A policeman's suspicion was raised when he noticed the truck parked with its windows open in the parking lot.

The victims apparently had had nothing to eat or drink for three days.

Bulgaria arrest driver of death truck

Bulgarian police have arrested the driver of the truck, Bulgaria's interior minister told state television Sunday.

Interior Minister Lyubomir Nachev said the arrested man was the driver of the truck alleged to have been used in illegal trafficking of people from Sri Lanka.



A Cook County medical examiner pushes a gurney carrying the body of one of the people killed by heat related causes in Chicago after record hot weather hit the Midwest for several days in a row (AFP photo)

Scores more die in U.S. heat wave

CHICAGO (AP) — Police vans filled with the dead kept rolling up to the morgue as another 56 victims were added to the grisly toll five days of extreme heat has taken on the people of this city.

The 56 deaths, coming atop 62 logged in the city since Wednesday, pushed the national toll from heat and storms to at least 213, including an 80-year-old Pennsylvania man who's been out sealing his driveway in 34-degree Celsius (94-degree Fahrenheit) heat.

Among Chicago's dead were a 75-year-old woman and her 65-year-old husband,

found dead in their 49-degree Celsius (120-degree Fahrenheit) bedroom Friday with a ceiling fan whirring overhead.

"We wondered why they were in the bedroom and not in the basement where it's cool, but they couldn't walk down there," neighbour Danyel Gooch said.

The nation's deadly tally topped the count in 1987, when at least 96 deaths from the plains to the east coast were blamed on heat, but didn't approach the 1980 heat wave that killed an estimated 1,500 people.

Though it hatched storms, the cool air was rushing in. It

warmed to 33C (92F) at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, compared to Saturday's record of 39C (102F). Boston enjoyed a high of 36C (97F), down sharply from Friday's 38C (100F), the hottest it's been since 1977.

In Philadelphia, autopsies performed Sunday revealed that heat contributed to the death of 15 people, said Jeff Moran, a spokesman for the city health department.

In New York City, 11 people died of heat-related causes in the 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. Sunday, said Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner.

Japan's LDP props up Murayama

TOKYO (R) — Socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama Monday received support in the toughest campaign of his career from a conservative who has spent his own career keeping the prime minister's leftist party out of office.

The conservative, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) stalwart Michio Watanabe, told a campaign gathering that Mr. Murayama can keep his job even if his party is soundly beaten in Sunday's upper house election.

"It's only an issue within the Socialist Party even if the party wins only half of the seats it won previously or only a single-digit number of seats," said Mr. Watanabe.

Mr. Watanabe's LDP is the dominant partner in the three-party ruling coalition of Socialists and LDP splinter group Sakigake.

Japanese political tradition would require Mr. Murayama to resign as Socialist chairman if his party fares badly Sunday, as it is projected to do in many surveys.

But Mr. Watanabe and a host of other leaders of the LDP, bitter foes of the Socialists from 1955 until they formed an unlikely coalition last year, say Mr. Murayama should stay on come what May.

"It is possible that Mr. Murayama will no longer be able to stay in the post of Socialist chairman," said Mr.

Watanabe, long a standard-bearer of his party's right wing. "But we won't ask him to resign."

In the first nationwide elections since 1993 and the first major test of voter opinion since Mr. Murayama took office, half of the 252 seats in parliament's upper chamber are up for grabs.

The fate of the Murayama administration has become almost the sole issue in an election for which all major parties have adopted policies so similar that voters are expected to shun the polls or vote in television celebrities as a protest.

But analysts say the LDP both enjoys the benefits of incumbency without having its leaders held directly accountable and fears the contentious battle that would erupt if it had to pick a successor to Mr. Murayama.

Mr. Watanabe is seen as a possible challenger in a heated election in September for the presidency of the LDP between current party head Yohei Kono, the foreign minister, and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the tough-talking trade minister.

Ironically, it is Mr. Murayama's Socialist deputy who has pushed the hardest to make him take responsibility for his party's electoral fate.

Wataru Kubo, the Socialist general secretary, long insisted that the party should

Obasanjo gets life, 14 sentenced to death in Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, number two in former President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, and 13 other members of the military have been sentenced to death after being convicted of trying to topple Nigeria's military government, press reports said Monday.

There was no official confirmation of the reports.

A special military court sent General Obasanjo and 10 other civilians and members of the military to prison for life, the independent newspapers This Day, AM News and Vanguard reported, citing sources close to the convicts' families.

Other defendants reportedly received jail sentences of between two and 25 years.

Gen. Obasanjo, 60, was the only African military ruler to have relinquished power voluntarily, ending his 1976 to 1979 regime after free civilian elections.

There is no right of appeal over the military tribunal's decision.

Banner headlines in Monday's newspapers were devoted to the reported verdict. "Coup plotters may be shot this week," AM News said.

"Appeals pour in for coup convicts," wrote the Vanguard and Tribune. "Northern elite plead for Yar'Adua, Obasanjo," said This Day, while the Daily Champion took up the theme with "Pope pleads for Obasanjo others."

According to AM News, the 14 sentenced to death had been transferred to the Kiri-kiri maximum security prison in Lagos where "armed soldiers, in combat fatigue, beefed up security at the weekend." The paper went on to say "the executions could take place this week."

On Friday, Defence Ministry spokesman General Fred Chikuba told a press conference that sentencing had taken place for 40 military officials and civilians accused of trying to overthrow General Sani Abacha's military regime in March.

Three other people, being tried in absentia, were also sentenced and warrants issued for their arrest. One of these is former Lieutenant-Colonel Sambo Dasuki, the son of Nigeria's top Islamic official Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki from the northern state of Sokoto.

However, Gen. Chikuba did not reveal the nature of the sentences, which still have to be approved by the country's highest ruling body, the Provisional Ruling Council.

Brazil arms depot rocked by blast; dozens missing

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — In a scene one witness likened to a "war movie," explosions tore through the Brazilian Navy's primary arms depot on an island 200 metres offshore. Dozens were missing and feared dead.

Navy officials estimated up to 100 people could have been at the depot near Rio at the time of the explosions, the CBN Radio Network reported.

TV Globo, quoting the Navy Ministry, said as many as 40 people could have been killed. At least 20 people were injured.

Thirty-seven homes on Boqueirão Island, the site of the explosions Sunday evening, also were destroyed, TV Globo said.

"The wounded were hugging each other and crying," said state Congressman Jose Moraes, commodore of the nearby Guanabara Yacht Club.

1st trial in Tokyo subway gassing ends in a day

TOKYO (R) — The first trial of a member of Japan's Aum doomsday cult at the Tokyo District Court was over in one day Monday with the accused denouncing the cult. The court's judgement is expected in September.

Prosecutors demanded a year in prison with labour for Takayuki Oikawa, a junior member of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth) sect for trespassing and other minor charges. The judgement and sentence are scheduled for Sept. 5.

Mr. Oikawa was not linked to the two gas attacks using the deadly nerve agent sarin alleged to have been carried out by top Aum members.

The first sarin attack, in June 1994 in the central Japan resort city of Matsumoto, killed seven residents and harmed 600. In the March 20 Tokyo subway attacks, 11 people were killed and 5,500 made ill.

Police arrested Mr. Oikawa on April 5, some two weeks after the Tokyo subway attacks, for illegally parking a car full of parts for automatic weapons at a Tokyo apartment.

Prosecutors accused him of trying to hide the cult's weapons parts at a time when police were conducting massive raids on cult buildings. Police said the cult was trying to mass-produce Russian-designed Kalashnikov automatic rifles.

Mr. Oikawa admitted to part of the charges but denied any knowledge of the weapons.

"I first joined the group to help other people, but it turned out to be a terrible religious organisation," Mr. Oikawa, 22, told the court.

The detonations began about 5:30 p.m. and lasted 90 minutes, creating a large cloud. They were felt up to 17 kilometres away. Smaller explosions continued hours afterward.

Television showed flames throughout the 56-hectare (138-acre) depot, almost five hours after the first explosion.

The depot contained conventional sea-to-sea Exocet missiles as well as guns, rifles, gunpowder and grenades, TV Globo said. A Navy Ministry statement issued late Sunday said, however, that there were no missiles at the depot — only ammunition and pistols, rifles and cannons.

Some radio reports speculated that a hot-air balloon — a popular staple at street parties this time of year — could have caused the explosions. The ministry said an official investigation would begin Monday.

"After this trial, I will not rejoin the group. I would like to work in the field of welfare," he said.

It was the first formal criminal court session involving an Aum member to be held at the Tokyo District Court, the scene of an expected showdown between Aum guru Shoko Asahara, 40, and state prosecutors in mid-October.

Asahara has been indicted on three counts so far: On murder charges from the March 20 Tokyo subway attacks, on murder and destruction of a corpse for the strangling of a follower in December 1994, and for illegally ordering the production of the hallucinogen LSD, the truth serum Thiopental, Amphetamine stimulants and other drugs.

On Sunday, police brought fresh murder and attempted murder charges against Asahara over the Matsumoto nerve gas attack.

Sunday's police move in Japanese judicial terminology called a "re-arrest" of an accused already in custody and gives investigators 21 days to question a suspect before formal indictment.

More than 30 of his top followers face a similar array of charges but six prime suspects in the subway attack are still at large.

Asahara has denied all charges.

Many of his top followers, however, have acknowledged their roles under police questioning, resulting in a huge amount of affidavits against their guru, according to Japanese media drawing from restricted police briefings.

Taiwan calls on China to resume talks

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwanese leaders Monday urged China to resume negotiations to achieve eventual reunification of the rivals, whose relations have been soured by Taipei's latest efforts to win international recognition.

Premier Lien Chan, speaking at the opening of a development seminar here, called on China to soften its stance and peacefully negotiate with Taiwan.

"Only with mutual trust and peaceful cooperation will the two sides be able to negotiate and finally achieve unification," Mr. Lien said.

Cross-strait relations, never cordial, have been further soured by Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui's "private visit" to the United States.

China retaliated by suspending high-level talks between the two semi-official bodies set up to conduct negotiations between Taipei and Beijing, which have no direct political contacts.

U.S. reaffirms comprehensive test ban goal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration, on the 50th anniversary of the first atomic explosion, reaffirmed its goal of ending nuclear testing.

"We are prepared for the possibility that the United States has already conducted its last nuclear test," said White House science adviser John H. Gibbons.

He addressed a daylong forum commemorating the "Trinity test" that shook and lit up the new Mexico desert before dawn on July 16, 1945 — just 21 days before history's first atomic bombing at Hiroshima that hastened the end of World War II.

Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary, whose department oversees the U.S. nuclear arsenal, said the United States, as the originator of the atomic bomb "cannot now shrink from our continuing responsibility" to lead the way to a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Gibbons said promise of a global end to testing was essential in persuading governments to agree last spring to indefinite extension of the non-proliferation treaty.

The administration reaffirmed its current test moratorium after France last month announced plans for one final test round, but some officials have been reported recommending reconsideration.

Mr. O'Leary said, however, the administration is

"aggressively working to permanently end nuclear testing through successful completion of a comprehensive test ban treaty... the goal since the Bush administration."

Dr. Edward Teller, often called the father of the hydrogen bomb, told Sunday's gathering at the National Academy of Sciences that in retrospect, it might have been a good idea to demonstrate the awesome new weapon high over Tokyo Bay before using it against a city.

A demonstration high in the sky visible to Emperor Hirohito and 10 million Japanese "might have had the same effect" as the Hiroshima bombing in finally prompting the emperor to intervene on the divided war council in favour of surrender, said the 87-year-old Teller, who was active in developing the atomic bomb.

The emotional fires ignited by the world's first atomic explosion still burn bright at the stone monolith perpetually guarding "ground zero."

The sorrow, fear, anger and awe that arrived with the atomic age were reflected Sunday in the faces of people who came to Trinity site to mark the 50th anniversary of the bomb.

The first atomic bomb exploded here on July 16, 1945, at 5:29:45 a.m. mountain was time. The blast produced a flash of light seen 420 kilometres away, a roar heard 80 kilometres away — and a mushroom cloud that

rose 12,192 metres (40,000 feet).

"You think, how such devastation. It's amazing what they had to do to end the war," said Rob Johnson of Albuquerque.

Others came in anger and sorrow.

One man splashed a vial of red liquid on the rough stone and mortar marker. As authorities moved to clean it off, another protester shouted "you can't wash the blood off. He merely made it visible."

The man with the vial and two other protesters who argued with army personnel were escorted off the range. No arrests were made, said range spokesman Larry Furrow.

Some of the record 5,308 visitors made a point of touching the marker at the exact moment when the bomb exploded 50 years ago. A snaking line of cars stretched more than five miles down the single lane road to the remote desert range about 320 kilometres south of Los Alamos.

Visitors came to get closer to history or to buy commemorative T-shirts. But everywhere were those who could find nothing to smile about.

"I wept. I am a little troubled. I feel very sad," said Dildar Gartenberg, wearing a phrase "stop plutonium."

The Berkeley, California, woman struggled to rein in

Sinead O'Connor returns to the music scene

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After three years of therapy, Irish singer Sinead O'Connor is back on the music scene with a pixie-style haircut and a new outlook on life. O'Connor, 28, is performing this summer with other acts as part of the Lollapalooza '95 Tour. It marks her first formal U.S. appearance since the then-bald singer was booed at a Bob Dylan tribute concert three years ago after tearing up a photograph of Pope John Paul II on American television. Now sporting short, dark hair, she's singing songs that deal with her struggles as a victim of child abuse. "The thing that saved me was therapy," said O'Connor, who was raised a Roman Catholic. "I went specifically to people who specialise in the treatment of survivors of child abuse. It was in a bad way as a result of what was going on within my family, so I had to take a few years to recover from that basically," she said of her physical and emotional abuse from her late mother.

Carnivorous pandas belle cuddly image

BEIJING (AFP) — The cuddly image of China's giant pandas as gentle, bamboo munching introverts has been shattered by the discovery of a highly carnivorous colony of the endangered animals, a report said Saturday. The 30 pandas which live in the Heizhuguo Valley nature reserve in southwest Sichuan province "still inherit the habits of the carnivorous animals of ancient times," the Xinhua News Agency said.

While the pandas are under way, snipers and six people in the area were killed, police said.

Jack the Ripper named again

LONDON (AFP) — Jack the Ripper has been identified again, this time as an American homeopathic doctor named Francis Tumblety, the Daily Telegraph reported Monday, quoting yet another book on the Victorian serial killer. The book, to be published Aug. 27 and entitled "The Lodger," was written by Stewart Evans, a British policeman, and Paul Ganey.

The main source is a letter from the head of the police Special Branch, John Littlechild, dated 1913. The letter, never published before, said Tumblety was the main suspect in the bloody murders of four prostitutes in London's East End in 1888, which has fascinated amateur and professional criminologists ever since and led to a host of more or less plausible identifications of the Ripper.

The Daily Telegraph said that according to the Littlechild letter Tumblety was arrested shortly after the last murder when his landlord discovered blood on one of his shirts. But he was charged only with sexual offences and freed on bail, whereupon he fled to the United States and was never traced. The murders in London ceased, but similar killings occurred later in Nicaragua and Jamaica.

Female foeticide on the rise in S. Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — "Too many grooms, not enough brides... now, it could be your problem," is the latest slogan scratched on walls all over South Korea, where the gender disparity, spurred by modern science, is becoming a serious problem. The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea (PPFK) recently released the anticipated ratio of marriageable men and women in 2010, saying it would reach 1.28 to one if the current trend continues. The time-honoured preference for male offspring here has boomeranged back to this country and caused a socially contentious abortion problem among young couples, according to the Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs (KIHS). In 1983, 107.4 male babies were born for every 100 female babies. Ten years later the disparity widened further to 115.6 for every 100, leading to the breakdown of traditional boy-girl pairing in primary school class rooms. The cases of illegal ultrasonographs to discern the sex of embryos are estimated to total some 40,000 annually in South Korea, with half resulting in induced abortions. Under the law, doctors who tell a pregnant woman the gender of the foetus face a fine of \$13,000 and three-year imprisonment. They can also lose their licences.

Ghali

BUJUMBURA (R) — Secretary-General Ghali has bluntly told Burundi's feuding political groups that their country risks civil war if they do not negotiate.

On the final day of an African tour over by fighting in Burundi, Ghali was scheduled to address a joint session of the parliament to bridge the gap between the Tutsi minority and Hutu majority.

After arriving in Bujumbura from Angola, Dr. Ghali met with the two main political groups, the Front for Democracy and the Tutsi-dominated RND, and said he would spend 90 minutes in the language was bluntly told Burundi's political groups that their country risks civil war if they do not negotiate.

"After listening to the speeches of Burundi's political groups, I was up to both sides of their problems out."

He said this was a critical and sophisticated time where everyone was at the negotiating table and should be treated as equals. He added that the example of Burundi was a warning to other African states.

Seven parties from opposition said Saturday would not attend peace talks in the capital called by Organisation of African Unity heads of state.

They said they should place inside Burundi, the for

Karachi peace talks adjourned for 3 days

KARACHI (AFP) — The Pakistan government and the ethnic-based opposition group Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) Monday adjourned for three days their talks aimed at ending violence in Karachi, a joint statement here said.

The negotiations will resume Thursday in Islamabad where the two sides started the current peace process last week.

The vaguely-worded statement gave no indication of a breakthrough, saying only that it was decided to examine "grievances" and to refrain from making "provocative" public utterances against each other.

Both sides, the statement said, "strongly condemned" acts of terrorism and violence and agreed to "cooperate" on restoring peace in the troubled city.

It said the MQM had demanded the return of those of its members who have been recently shifted to the interior of Sindh province from Karachi prison.

The head of the MQM delegation, Ajmal Delhvi, later told reporters that his side had submitted a list of 300 party members who have been transferred from the provincial capital Karachi to distant jails in other parts of Sindh.

The government side at the talks, which lasted three-and-a-half hours, was led by Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan. Some 2,000 people have been killed in political and ethnic violence in Karachi in the past 18 months.

Eight more people died Monday in different parts of the city.

While the talks were underway, snipers shot dead six people in separate incidents and police found two bullet-riddled bodies in cen-



Kamal Azfar (centre), governor of Sindh province, escorts two chief negotiators, N.D. Khan (left), federal minister for law and Ajmal Delhvi of ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), for talks, in Karachi (AFP photo)

tral Karachi. "Restoration and consolidation of peace in Karachi is the top priority," the law minister said.

Observers said Mr. Khan's remarks indicated the negotiators might identify some confidence-building measures to help defuse the situation.

The MQM negotiators have 18 demands concerning the political and social grievances of migrants who settled in big cities of southern Sindh province after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

Nearly 50 years after independence, the Urdu-speaking immigrants from India are still considered Mohajirs, or refugees, in Pakistan's southern region. Although their language is also the national language of Pakistan, Sindhi is the predominant language

in Sind province, of which Karachi is the capital.

The MQM says Mohajirs, who dominate Karachi, make up 22 million of ethnically-divided Sindh's estimated 50 million people.

A charismatic community leader, Altaf Hussain, who now lives in self exile in London, launched the party in 1985 to highlight complaints of alleged discrimination of migrants.

The government holds MQM responsible for much of the violence and acts of terrorism, while the party, denying the charge, attributes the troubles to what it calls the government's anti-Mohajir policy.

The government has put forward 21 demands which call on the MQM to denounce violence, desist from strike calls, stop targeting non-Mohajir residents and close its alleged training

camp in India. Meanwhile, the hotel industry in Karachi has been devastated by the violence, as foreign tourists and business people steer clear of the troubled port city.

Almost half of the 1,500 rooms in Karachi's five-star hotels have remained unoccupied for the past few months, Maudood Lodhi, chairman of Karachi's standing committee on hotel and tourism, said Monday.

Mr. Lodhi, who is also a member of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), told AFP that hotels had suffered millions of dollars in losses of income.

Some foreign missions have advised their nationals to observe caution while travelling to Karachi but most foreign visitors already prefer to meet elsewhere in Pakistan to conduct business talks, he said.

Cambodia rebels pull back from key base; troops advance

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas pulled back from a key rebel base near the Thai border Monday ahead of some 1,000 Cambodian advancing government troops, a Cambodian military source in Poipet said.

That military analysts suggested the guerrillas might be trying to lure the government troops into a position where the Khmer Rouge could cut off their supply lines and hit them from the rear.

Heavy fighting in the area Monday spilled over into Thailand when about 100 Phnom Penh government soldiers who had crossed the border exchanged fire with Thai forces before being pushed back into Cambodia, Thai officials said.

The government assault on the Khmer Rouge base at Klar Ngap moved within one kilometre of the Thai border before dusk, with heavy artil-

lery, mortar, multiple-rocket, grenade and submachine gun fire.

Thai border forces beefed up security and patrols as the two Cambodian sides faced off at dusk at the Khlong Namsai canal, a natural Thai-Cambodian border barrier.

Two Russian-made Mi-8 helicopter gunships were seen flying at high altitude over Klar Ngap late Monday to provide support for ground troops.

They engaged in a 20-minute firefight with Khmer Rouge anti-aircraft guns before flying back to the government artillery base at Nimrit, Thai border officials said.

The firefight lasted about 20 minutes before the choppers flew back to the government artillery base at Nimrit, they said.

The government assault began at dawn against Klar Ngap, where the rebels'

365th Division is based, Colonel Wanchai Thongsukhum, commander of the Aranyaprathet Task Force, said. Klar Ngap controls the approach to the Khmer Rouge stronghold at Phnom Malai.

No casualties were immediately available from the fighting.

Early Sunday, eight Cambodian soldiers were killed and 11 were wounded when their truck was ambushed by a platoon of Khmer Rouge guerrillas on Route 5 near Phum Sala Kahom, 10 kilometres west of Siosophon.

Hospital officials in Cambodia's Mongkol Borei district said at least 100 Phnom Penh government soldiers had been hospitalised since July 4, mainly for wounds from landmines or bamboo spike traps in the Klar Ngap region.

The wounded soldiers were

treated at the Norwegian Red Cross-run government hospital, 10 kilometres south of Siosophon in Banteay Meanchey province.

Meanwhile, areas around Cambodia's main tourist attraction, the 12th-century temple complex of Angkor Wat, have been totally cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance, the government news service reported Monday.

COFRAS, a French demining organisation which has been clearing around the Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom temples for the last two years, has now begun demining work near the 10th-century temple of Banteay Srei.

A COFRAS official said the team had found and defused 42 hand grenades, four artillery shells, 11 mortar shells and a large quantity of ammunition.

Russians report to Moscow on Chechen peace talks

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Russian negotiators at Chechen peace talks were expected to meet Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow Monday and discuss prospects for a breakthrough.

Russian and Chechen rebel delegates took a three-day break from talks in the regional capital of Grozny Sunday for further consultations with their leaders on the vexing issue of Chechnya's constitutional status.

The status issue lies at the heart of the seven-month-old conflict in the north Caucasus territory in which thousands of people have been killed since Russian troops were sent in to quash a drive for independence.

The Chechens, who unilaterally declared independence from the Russian Federation in 1991, want the declaration recognised by the Russian side, Moscow says

the issue of status should be decided after elections scheduled in Chechnya later this year.

The peace talks, at the building of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have so far produced a shaky ceasefire and a disengagement plan which would come into force once an overall settlement had been agreed.

The truce came under fresh pressure overnight.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Lieutenant-General Anatoly Shirikov, commander of the Russian operation in Chechnya, as saying Moscow's forces had come under fire 12 times overnight. Three Russian servicemen were wounded, he said.

In a separate report, TASS said there had been casualties among Russian servicemen when a supply convoy was ambushed near German-

chuk, about 15 kilometres southeast of Grozny, Monday.

Gunfire echoed through Grozny during the night, particularly in the Leninsky and Zavodsky districts, and tracer bullets arched overhead, TASS said.

But the city was calm by mid-morning.

Interfax News Agency said Mr. Chernomyrdin, who set up the latest round of peace talks when he was bargaining with Chechen rebels during a hostage-seizure in southern Russia last month, would meet the Russian delegation in Moscow Monday.

Chechen delegate Aslan Maskhadov, who is the rebels' chief military commander and has taken part in the peace talks, said Sunday that the two sides had to consult with their leaders because "issues of great principle" had to be tackled.

The Chechens were expected to consult with the separatist leadership under Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared Chechnya's independence in 1991 and has a base in the southern mountains.

The peace talks were further complicated by the chief Chechen negotiator, Usman Imayev, falling sick.

When talks broke up Sunday, chief Russian negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhailov said "certain difficulties" had arisen and he accused the Chechens of retreating on a previous agreement.

"What we discussed today had previously been agreed, but today there was the start of a retreat from the previously agreed formula," TASS quoted him as saying.

But Mr. Mikhailov, who is Russia's nationalities minister, added that the talks had not broken down, TASS said.

EU states protest against French nuclear tests

BRUSSELS (R) — Seven European Union countries protested in private session Monday against France's insistence on resuming nuclear testing, an EU diplomat said.

Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Austria, Luxembourg and the Netherlands all expressed their dismay with Paris' decision at an EU foreign ministers meeting, the diplomat said.

The diplomat said France had rejected the criticism and said last week's protests at the European Parliament when deputies tried to shout down French President Jacques Chirac was the worst possible way of trying to influence French policy.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen appealed to French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette to reconsider the decision to resume nuclear weapons testing on the South Pacific atoll of Mururoa.

In a statement made available to Reuters she called the French decision "utterly regrettable" and said the growing criticism of the French decision was harming EU unity and the credibility of its foreign and security policy role.

Following weeks of international protest over the French president's decision to conduct nuclear testing, one ex-minister says the French people should have the last word.

Jack Lang, a Socialist and former culture minister, suggested Sunday that a vote could give conservative President Jacques Chirac a way out of the controversy.

"One of the best ways to come to a decision without dishonouring himself or the country is to call on the French people," he told TF-1 television.

Mr. Lang said resuming nuclear testing was "a mis-

take and a contradiction to peace" but that there was "still time to reverse such a decision."

"There is a lot of talk about a referendum, convincing the citizens and organising a serious debate in France for or against nuclear testing. On this basis, we can maintain or reject the nuclear tests," he said.

Mr. Lang also proposed setting up "with France's initiative," an "international conference on nuclear stability."

Mr. Lang served under President Francois Mitterrand, who called a moratorium on nuclear weapons test blasts in 1992. Mr. Chirac and military officials say France needs to stage eight more underground tests in French Polynesia beginning in September to ensure the reliability of France's nuclear arsenal.

The French public has

generally been supportive of France's nuclear policy, but Mr. Chirac's test plans have sparked widespread protest in other countries.

Former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said in an interview with Television New Zealand Monday that President Chirac should reverse his decision to resume nuclear testing.

"The good solution would be for him to stop the test programme," Mr. Rocard said during an interview on a weekly current affairs programme conducted by TVNZ presenter Ian Fraser.

Mr. Rocard, who visited New Zealand in 1991 when he was prime minister and apologised for French sabotage of the Greenpeace ship the Rainbow Warrior, said he would have advised against the resumption of nuclear tests.

Ghali warns Burundi it risks civil war

BUJUMBURA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has bluntly warned Burundi's feuding factions that their central African country risks civil war unless they negotiated with each other.

On the final leg of an African tour overshadowed by fighting in Bosnia, the U.N. chief was scheduled to address a joint session of Burundi's parliament to try to bridge the gaping rift between the Tutsi minority and Hutu majority.

After arriving in Bujumbura from Angola Sunday, Dr. Ghali met parliamentarians from the Hutu-dominated FRODEBU party and Tutsi-dominated UPRONA opposition party for 90 minutes in the evening.

"The secretary-general's language was blunt enough to strip wallpaper," said an observer who attended the closed door talks.

"After listening to each side blaming the other for all of Burundi's problems, Dr. Ghali indicated angrily that it was up to both sides to sort their problems out," he told Reuters.

"He said this was an educated and sophisticated country where everyone spoke the same language and could be at the negotiating table together and shouldn't follow the example of Beirut which tore itself apart for 15 years," he added.

Seven parties from the opposition said Saturday they would not attend inter-party peace talks in Ethiopia's capital called by Organisation of African Unity (OAU) heads of state.

They said they should take place inside Burundi. FRODEBU, the former rul-



United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali (left) is greeted by Burundi Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo at Bujumbura Airport. Dr. Ghali arrived here on an 18-hour visit just hours after at least seven people were

killed and six wounded in renewed ethnic violence. Burundi is the fourth country of an African tour after Rwanda, Angola and Zaire (AFP photo)

ing party, has said it would go to Addis Ababa.

Dr. Ghali also discussed ending ethnic bloodletting in Burundi with President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, a Hutu. Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo, leaders of the 12-party coalition government and Pierre Buyoya, a former Tutsi military dictator.

An estimated 50,000 people were butchered in the two months after the assassination of Burundi's first freely-elected Hutu president in October 1993. Tens of thousands were killed in 1994 and this year.

Dr. Ghali met the high command of the Tutsi-dominated military Monday before addressing parliament.

Gunfire and one hand grenade blast was heard in the centre of the Burundian capital overnight — relative calm compared with bouts of

fierce ethnic conflict in the last three months.

Tens of thousands of Hutu civilians fled a Bujumbura suburb Saturday after a night of clashes between troops and Hutu guerrillas and seven people were killed in an ambush outside the city.

Before Bujumbura, Dr. Ghali visited Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's jungle palace in Gbadolite to discuss nearly two million Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

More than a million Hutu refugees are in Zaire, which is already being used as a base by Hutu guerrillas to launch attacks into Burundi. Aid officials fear an invasion of Rwanda is planned by Rwandan Hutu troops driven into exile last year.

A spokeswoman for the secretary-general said Mr. Mobutu agreed Sunday to cooperate with an interna-

tional tribunal set up to bring to justice the alleged masterminds of Rwanda's genocide last year.

She hinted Zaire had agreed to the extradition of the accused and said Mr. Mobutu also agreed to cooperate with an inquiry into the killing of Rwanda's and Burundi's presidents in a downed plane in April last year which triggered the ethnic slaughter.

Meanwhile Dr. Ghali has postponed a visit to Turkey set for this week because of the crisis in Bosnia, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Dr. Ghali was due to visit Turkey after his current African tour.

Dr. Ghali had planned a four-day visit to Turkey beginning Tuesday. It has been put off until a further unspecified date, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan told a news briefing.

Yeltsin works on but doctors keep him in hospital

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's ailing President Boris Yeltsin worked from hospital Monday and doctors said he would have to remain there for the time being to complete treatment for a heart problem.

A statement by Mr. Yeltsin's press service said he was working almost as usual on state affairs.

But it did not issue a health report on the 64-year-old Kremlin chief almost a week after he was admitted to hospital and did not say when he would be discharged.

"Specialists say the patient must carry on the scheduled treatment in hospital, where he has all he needs for working," the Presidential Press Service said in a statement.

A spokesman at the Presidential Press Service told Reuters: "The president is working on a schedule which is close to his normal work schedule when he is in his office."

Mr. Yeltsin was admitted to a Moscow hospital on July

11 with an ischaemic heart condition — a blood supply problem.

In a policy of greater openness about the president's state of health, the Kremlin has issued regular statements describing how Mr. Yeltsin is working from his room in Moscow's Central Clinic Hospital and saying he is on the road to recovery.

His wife, Naina, said he looked fine when she visited him Friday and attacked media speculation over his long-term health.

But Mr. Yeltsin's top aide made clear last week that Mr. Yeltsin was exhausted after four years as president and has been under stress during a series of political crises in recent weeks.

The aide, Viktor Ilyushin, said Mr. Yeltsin had cancelled all engagements until July 24 and that he was likely to stay in hospital all this week.

No television cameras have been allowed to film Mr. Yeltsin since he entered hos-

pital and only one photograph of him has been issued since he was admitted.

But in an indication of concern that Mr. Yeltsin must not suffer any stress, a meeting scheduled for Tuesday with Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the State Duma lower house of parliament, was cancelled Monday on doctors' orders.

"The meeting in hospital is out of the question, the president should recover fully, and there is no need to trouble him," Mr. Rybkin was quoted as saying by Interfax News Agency.

Duties Mr. Yeltsin did carry out Monday included sending messages to the organisers of the Moscow International Film Festival, opening later in the day, and to conference on European security, his press service said.

He also examined several other documents, gave instructions to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and empowered Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to represent

Russia at talks with NATO and the European Union in Brussels Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin became president in 1991 and faces reelection in June 1996.

He has recently appeared tired, looked puffy-eyed and walked stiffly in public, causing speculation about his health and whether he plans to seek a second five-year term.

Mr. Ilyushin said one of the biggest strains has been the seven-month-old military campaign to crush the breakaway Chechen region's independence bid.

Mr. Yeltsin has faced harsh criticism since he sent troops into the north Caucasus region, thousands of people have been killed.

Chief Russian negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhailov updated Mr. Chernomyrdin on the talks Monday. The talks were suspended for three days Sunday after the chief Chechen delegate fell ill.

Burma's Suu Kyi meets diplomats in Rangoon

RANGOON (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi slowly widened her circle of contacts Monday, lunching at the French embassy and meeting other foreign diplomats at her lakeside home.

A French official said she spent "quite some time" at the embassy and had a "general session" with Ambassador Bernard Pottier. But he declined to give any details of their talks.

It was only her fourth foray outside the walled compound where she had been confined under house arrest for nearly six years until her release July 10.

Workmen were meanwhile installing telephone lines to the residence.

Throughout the day, cars bearing diplomatic license plates and flying national flags pulled up at the family home where passengers were discharged for short meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi.

Earlier, she met again with colleagues from the National League for Democracy (NLD), which she helped found in 1988, including for the first time the NLD's delegates to the ongoing national convention to prepare a new constitution.

An aide confirmed Monday that she would attend a government ceremony Wednesday marking the assassination of her father, independence hero Aung

San, 48 years ago, but stressed she would keep it low-key to avoid incidents.

She would attend the wreath-laying ceremony in the morning — her first public appearance — but would return home immediately afterward, the aide indicated. She met Saturday with the ambassador of Norway and accepted an invitation to travel to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize she was awarded in 1991, but said she did not intend to leave Burma for the time being.

Some 200 Burmese, most of them huddled under umbrellas, maintained a vigil outside her home Monday despite several hours of rain ranging from a heavy downpour to a steady drizzle.

A dozen vendors had taken up semi-permanent residence in the road, selling fresh fruit, dried food and cigarettes to the crowd.

The 50-year-old dissident made another trip to the gate barring the driveway to her home to address bystanders. Sheltered under a large green and white golf umbrella, she again pledged to continue to work for democracy.

The four-minute speech was short, but the crowd cheered and clapped loudly until she asked them to disperse. When they turned to go, she chanted "Long Live Aung San Suu Kyi."

Security remained light,

with a half-dozen men in uniform loitering near the crowd, taking down license plate numbers of visitors and occasionally photographing people standing outside the gate.

The opposition leader has ventured outside her home only four times since her release, to have her eyesight checked, to take a call from her husband in England at the British embassy, for lunch at a relative's nearby home and to the French embassy.

Mrs. Suu Kyi was detained six years ago because of her harsh attacks on the military junta that seized power in September 1988, crushing a nationwide pro-democracy movement.

Perhaps because she was the daughter of Aung San — gunned down along with eight others by men in uniform as they met on July 19, 1947, to plan Burma's independence from Britain — she was not jailed but was confined to her home.

In a separate development, a report in Bangkok said Monday that Khun Sa may be forced to step down as self-proclaimed leader of the Shan minority in northeastern Burma because of his alleged drug ties.

Officials from his Shan ethnic group wanted to replace the warlord, who de-

clared himself president of Shan state in December 1993, because his alleged drug connections were harming their independence drive, the Bangkok Post said.

The officials said that U.S. pressure on Khun Sa over the allegations had resulted in a "gradual revolt strategy" under which the warlord's political and military posts would be filled by other members of the Shan minority.

The United States has offered a \$200,000 reward for the arrest of Khun Sa, whose Maung Tai Army (MTA) controls a large part of the opium-growing Shan state and is allegedly financed by revenue from the drug trade.

The Shan have been pushing for greater autonomy from Rangoon.

Meanwhile, a Burmese dissident group said in Bangkok that about 1,000 MTA troops had broken away from Khun Sa to sign a ceasefire agreement with the Burmese government.

The All Burma Students Democratic Front said in a statement that the breakaway troops would sign the agreement, probably Tuesday, that would give them control of areas in Shan state.

The report, which could not be independently confirmed, said the reason for the reported split was not yet clear.

Jordan Times

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Shame on sideline

THERE IS a limit to how much shame the international community can live with as a result of sitting idly by while a massacre of enormous proportions is being carried out against the Bosnian people — or is there?

It seems that the world community, especially the Western powers which can call the shots in the Balkans, is refusing to admit that shame. They are rather hiding behind pretexts that can do nothing to check the Serbs' arrogance and aggression as they go about not only murdering innocent civilians but making a mockery of the whole world, of human ethics and of the principles of civility that the West never stops boasting of.

The Serbian attacks on civilians in areas declared safe havens by the United Nations have disastrous consequences. But the situation smacks of even more disgust as one watches the impotence with which the international community is reacting to the massacres.

The Bosnian conflict has been going on for years now. Many an attempt by the West to convince the Serbs to silence their guns and talk peace with the Bosnians have failed. The message in that is clear: The Serbs see no reason to end the war against the Bosnians as long as they believe that they can invade more Bosnian territory and achieve more ethnic cleansing with no one to stop them. The Bosnians are unable to defend themselves as the United Nations continues to suffocate their fighting abilities with the embargo on arms imports. The United States, with no direct interest involved, is reluctant to commit troops in the Balkans out of fear that American blood might be shed in the process. The U.S. says the tragedy is closer to Europe than it is to its lands across the Atlantic. That is true. The war is in the heart of Europe. And Europe will not allow outside powers to intervene in a conflict in its own backyard. But Europe is so divided, so undetermined and so unwilling to take the only action possible to remove the shame in which the Bosnian war has engulfed it. The Serbs are counting on force to achieve their goals in Bosnia. Nothing but real deterrence can halt their aggression.

The world can no longer shrink its responsibility in Bosnia-Herzegovina. If it is not willing to come to the aid of the Bosnians, it must at least allow them to defend themselves. That it can do by lifting the embargo, and if the Bosnian people lose the war after that, at least they would have been allowed the right to fight for their lives, for their lands and for their future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily welcomed the success of a visit to Saudi Arabia by the foreign minister, calling it a step forward towards restoring the golden era of inter-Arab solidarity. Coming after five years of strained relations, the visit is bound to pave the way for the restoration of normal ties between the two neighbouring Arab states and brotherly cooperation in pan-Arab affairs, said the daily. Referring to the statements of the foreign ministers of the two countries after the conclusion of the visit, the paper said they reflected the genuine feelings on the two sides, which are determined to overcome all obstacles that impeded normal relations in the years that followed the Gulf crisis. Having achieved this step, said the daily, the two countries now stand at the threshold of a new phase of fruitful relations which the Arab people of the two countries hope will be marked with brotherly cooperation in all domains.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Monday accused the United Nations of failing to live up to expectations in the ongoing conflict in former Yugoslavia and to provide protection to the defenceless population in the face of Serbian aggression. Tareq Masarweh said that every night people watch on television scenes of misery and the victims of the aggression and hear statements by U.N. officials about plans to be taken to deal with the situation but nothing is being done in that direction. Not only is the United Nations facing humiliation at the hands of the Serbs but rather the Arab and Islamic countries are to blame for the ordeal of the Muslim people of Bosnia. The situation in Bosnia would not have deteriorated to such a degree had the Arab Muslim nations been in a stronger and united position within the world community and had they embarked on practical steps to provide all kinds of aids to the Bosnian civilian population, said the writer. He said the United Nations proved to be determined and firm in the face of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and has maintained a crippling embargo on the Iraqi people since 1990 but has failed to take any meaningful action to protect the victims of the attacks by Serbian forces.

Cafe's gouge

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

ON JULY 9, Al Ra'i newspaper published an article stating the coffee prices have fallen internationally and will continue to fall because of competition among overseas suppliers. However, the price of coffee here at home will not fall. Why? According to an interview with the owner of one of the four domestic companies that control the supply of coffee in Jordan, coffee that is being sold in the local market was purchased two months ago at old prices. Therefore, the four domestic suppliers will not lower coffee prices in order not to lose money. At first glance this justification makes sense. But wait a minute...

Almost a year ago coffee bean prices in Jordan were increased because of, I believe, a harvest freeze in Brazil which decreased the supply of coffee and increased its price worldwide. Jordanian suppliers did not give us, the consumers, a two month grace period: Coffee prices shot up immediately. They did not mention the shipping argument to the then complaining consumer. However, now that they have presented us with the "of ship and wait argument" we believe that they made a fortune — they gouged us! But wait again, before we start pointing fingers and denouncing our brethren, let's examine some of the salient features of the case.

• Coffee is usually traded in commodity markets

where traders sometimes use a tool called a futures contract. This contract is a legally binding commitment to deliver or take delivery of a given quantity and quality of a commodity (coffee) at a future date at an agreed upon price. Coffee suppliers who want to protect themselves from market fluctuations can buy a futures contract if they fear unfavourable prices in the future. This type of hedging is used by most moderately sophisticated coffee traders (futures contracts have been around since 1848). Do our four suppliers know that? I honestly hate to think that our companies are not that sophisticated because that means we have to pay the price of their folly. If, on the other hand, they are sophisticated and have reduced their market exposure then they are not really hurting, but we are.

• The Ministry of Supply believes in floating coffee prices. In other words, coffee prices are to be determined by the market forces of supply and demand. The ministry does not involve itself in coffee matters, which is a sound policy if the market is competitive.

• The number of coffee suppliers is four (according to the Al Ra'i article) — hardly representative of a competitive market structure. Usually, a market with so few sellers is viewed cautiously by regulatory agencies throughout the world. This market structure is called oligopolistic

and normally exhibits a fair degree of market (monopoly) power.

• If the four coffee suppliers decide not to compete with each other and behave instead as a single seller by collectively setting prices and quantities, the sellers are acting collusively and their organisation is a cartel. This market form approaches pure monopoly and the usual law of supply is no longer applicable.

• For the cartel to succeed in its quest for market control, the product it sells, in this case coffee, must be viewed by the consumer as a necessity, otherwise the consumer may refuse to pay the high price set up by the cartel and may switch to another product, such as tea. This condition was the cornerstone of OPEC's market control.

• Coffee is Jordan's national drink and is viewed by most Jordanians as a necessity. Jordanian coffee companies stand to gain significantly by keeping the prices high. The consumer, however, will continue to pay the high prices and the quantities consumed will not decrease in proportion to the price hike.

• Cartels are illegal under the Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts in the U.S., the British Mergers Laws, and are forbidden in most developed countries. Why? Collusive behaviour is anti-competitive and deprives the consumer of the considerable gains that arise from competition (greater

quantities at lower prices).

• As a result of aggressive price competition, coffee companies worldwide have lowered their prices, so a valid question is "Why can't Jordanian companies follow suit?" May be because they are not competing with each other. If all four firms have a history of price setting (charging similar or identical prices) then the price of coffee in Jordan is not being floated but being fixed by undermining the forces of competition and restricting the flow of commerce to the detriment of the Jordanian consumer. The argument for keeping the regulatory body outside the coffee market is thereby weakened and the ministry may be well within its rights to interfere and force a price reduction that is proportional to the price adjustment of the international market.

In light of the above, — there is no justifiable reason for coffee prices to remain high; — if one firm reduces its price then we have evidence of non-cartel behaviour at home;

— in the absence of a regulatory body and consumer advocacy groups, the consumer can choose to make the switch from coffee to tea.

After all, Cafe' Gouge leaves a bitter aftertaste.

The writer is professor of economics at Mu'ta University. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Taiwan's diplomacy, is it worth it?

By James Kynge
Reuters

TAIPEI — For an indication of how much Taiwan cares about its status on the world stage, consider the question of the "million dollar comma."

Taipei's major objection to paying what is expected to be millions of U.S. dollars into a fund at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is that it does not like the name by which the bank knows it, a central-bank official said.

The ADB currently calls it "Taipei, China", a name Taiwan feels relegates it to the status of a tributary part of China. If, however, the ADB was willing to excise the comma and call it "Taipei China", then donations may start to flow, said the central-bank official, who asked not to be named.

"We would probably be willing to compromise on 'Taipei China' without the comma," said the official, who explained that "Taipei China" implies a sense of separatism from Beijing.

The question of the ADB comma reveals how far this major economic power is prepared to go to combat efforts by archival China to downgrade its status and keep it a diplomatic outcast in the global village.

But some academics and other analysts in Taiwan are starting to wonder whether Taiwan's efforts to gain more international recognition, a policy known as "pragmatic diplomacy," may be costing far more than it achieves.

"We should review our pragmatic diplomacy. In its current form it is not very cost effective," said I Yuan, a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations at the National Chengchi University.

He and other analysts said a landmark trip by President Lee Teng-hui to the United States in June, hailed then as Taiwan's big-

gest diplomatic breakthrough in more than a decade, might have been counterproductive.

Mr. Lee's trip back to his alma-mater Cornell University was the first U.S. visit by a Taiwan president, but shrill protests from China have severely strained relations.

Beijing postponed indefinitely crucial talks with Taipei scheduled for July, meaning the key issue of Taiwan's relations with Hong Kong after the British colony returns to Chinese rule in 1997 is not even under negotiation.

As the clock ticks toward 1997, many in Taiwan are becoming acutely aware of how much their future hinges on a territory that is their biggest export market and the conduit for most of their investments in the vast China market.

"This is the time when we should be building bridges with the right people in China, not destroying them," Mr. Yuan said.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949 and tries to block its international contacts as a way to prevent it becoming more independent.

But Taiwan, recognised by only 30 countries, has been prepared to pay to expand the international recognition it sees as insurance against being swallowed ignominiously by its giant neighbour.

In June it offered to donate \$1 billion for developing nations if it was given membership in the United Nations.

Much media jubilation last week greeted the establishment of official ties with Gambia, a small West African nation dependent on groundnuts.

"What is the government doing? How on earth can Gambia help us?" asked a ruling Nationalist Party member of parliament who "did not want to be named."

LETTERS

Sanity's final stand

To the Editor:

THE ON switch on TV happens to be one of the most dangerous buttons found in any household. We have all been warned, as children not to play with loaded guns, but my real astonishment is why no one warned us about a plugged TV. Surely the TV is more dangerous, the only difference I can see is that a gun is a more humane way to go.

As with handling a gun with respect and keep his finger off the trigger unless he means business, the same respect should be given to the TV and one should never take the decision to press that ON switch lightly. Always remember a button's touch away is a world waiting to burden you with its misery. However, if you are one of those adventurous souls that like living on the edge there are some pointers you should follow if you are going to tempt fate and sanity on daily basis by switching on your TV set:

1- When watching the news practice breathing exercises to calm yourself, keep reminding yourself that this is not real and it is just a sick joke played by the TV network.

2- If the above doesn't work try convincing yourself that it is not the news but a real bad B horror movie. All the people are actors and they are lying there with bullets in their head for the sole benefit of the camera. Once the camera is switched off, all would rise, go home and carry what would pass as a normal life in the 90's.

3- If the above methods are ineffective in protecting your sanity then come to terms with what you are hearing and seeing on the news gradually. Tell yourself that these people are different from you, that they must have been leading a wicked life to deserve all this misery, that nothing in the universe is random and all is part of a bigger scheme. Always repeat the idea that this could never ever happen to you.

TV manufacturers have been subliminally deceiving us into believing that it is safe to reach out and press that On button by painting it green. Reliable surveys have shown that if the On button was painted red 30 per cent less viewers would find the courage to press it. Older TVs had silver buttons, that's because debate is whether there was actually the same amount of bloodshed as today but TV programmes had the common sense not to show it four times a day everyday. At any rate what we most commonly label as news has gone downhill, the change to the more shocking but less disturbing because we are getting used to seeing the ugliest side of man day in and day out. Pressing that green button any day of the week brings the raw world into your living room. Suddenly you are sharing your breathing space with Bosnia, Rwanda, Chechnya and another half a dozen hot spots around the globe.

The news nowadays became standardised, there is no real difference between international and national news. In both the detailing how many quarts of blood were spilled, where, when, disturbing as is anything without a reason. Not that any reason would still be nice to find out exactly why traditionally integrated the Bosnians? Why is the U.N. dragging its feet in Bosnia? Why defend Bosnia as it has on different occasions? What is making the French insecure enough to antagonise the international community by resuming nuclear testing when clearly no need for further testing exists? Is it perhaps because they had a bad wine year? continuation of the U.N. sponsored suffering?

The questions go on as each quart of innocent blood spilled demands an answer. The green On switch is looming there challenging my sanity and laughing sarcastically at my state, a without having the slightest idea as to why?

Ahmad Tabbaa,
Amman.



50 years after, world is ready to ban tests — or is it?

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

WEEKS BEFORE they light the fuse in the far Pacific, the French have set off an explosion of global protest with their plan to resume nuclear weapons testing.

But the nuclear future may depend less on what happens on a Polynesian island in September than on the outcome of a secretive meeting last week at a California resort, where leading physicists gathered to try to help a wavering U.S. government take a stand on a global test ban.

These latest developments — a decision in France, indecision in America — have suddenly cast a shadow of doubt over international negotiations to conclude a comprehensive test ban treaty by late 1996.

The Polish chairman of those talks in Geneva sounds worried. "It's possible," Ludwik Dembinski said of reaching the goal. "But it will be very difficult."

Fifty years after the first atomic test explosion in New Mexico, on July 16, 1945, the nuclear powers have committed themselves to a 1996 target for banning the tests that over the years helped them build ever more compact, durable and finely tuned weapons.

But after 2,000-plus explosions in the Nevada desert, the central Asian steppes and the Pacific, some want the treaty to allow still more such "activities" — tests by another name.

Four declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain and France — have observed a test moratorium since 1992. Last month, however, the French announced they would stage eight underground explosions at their Mururoa Atoll site

between September and next May.

Condemnation came quickly. Japan, New Zealand and other Pacific governments protested bitterly. Firebombers destroyed a French consulate in Australia. Seaborn Greenpeace activists tried to invade Mururoa.

The French say they need the tests to check the safety and reliability of their arsenal and to collect data, before a test ban, for later weapons work via computer simulation. But arms control advocates say Paris mostly wants to use the tests to complete the design of a new warhead.

The U.S. government reaffirmed its adherence to the moratorium. But as attention focused on France, things were happening in Washington, too.

The United States had been expected to favour a test ban loophole to allow elementary weapons work via miniature nuclear blasts underground, with explosive yields equivalent to no more than four pounds of TNT. In late June, however, it emerged that the Pentagon was seeking a much higher "threshold" — reportedly 500 tonnes, equivalent to the power of 300 Oklahoma city bombs.

In meetings last week, Clinton administration officials were trying to settle the U.S. policy dispute. None spoke publicly about the pending decision, but the heat clearly was on.

"There's a lot of pressure within the administration to go to a high threshold of several hundred tonnes," said one informed official.

The heat was felt all the way to Geneva. "Several hundred tonnes, in my personal view, is certainly not acceptable," Mr. Dembinski said in a telephone interview.

India's delegate to the 38-

nation talks was more direct in rejecting the idea of any tests at all.

A test ban treaty should mean "complete cessation of nuclear tests by all states in all environments and for all time," Satish Chandra, speaking for the Third World bloc, declared at one Geneva session.

India is key: If it refuses to sign a treaty, its undeclared nuclear arms programme would remain beyond international controls.

The Clinton administration, split between the military and other U.S. agencies favouring a near-zero threshold, turned for help to the "jasons," a select group of independent scientists on call to advise the government.

This panel of "wise men," first organised in 1958, is named after an inventive hero of Greek myth.

A knowledgeable source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a half-dozen jasons — nuclear physicists — met in La Jolla, California, last week with government specialists to review the threshold question.

Their discussions ranged across an arcane realm where milliseconds make the difference between small "bangs" and unimaginable explosions.

In a two-stage thermonuclear bomb, a sphere of non-nuclear explosives is ignited and "implodes," compressing an inner plutonium or uranium core to critical mass. Neutrons are then fired at the core, setting off an atom-splitting chain reaction. That fission explosion in turn compresses a second component, of light atoms, which fuse and give off heat in an even greater fusion explosion.

Minimal "four-pound" experiments are fission reactions aborted in their first moments. They are useful in weapon safety work — to determine, for example, that

accidental ignition of the conventional explosives at only point on the sphere produces just a small fission yield.

But Christopher E. Paine of the Natural Resources Defence Council, a Washington-based anti-nuclear group, says even mini-yield experiments can aid weapon development.

Monitoring the implosion and core compression, for example, can tell designers the optimum instant for firing neutrons at the fissionable core, Mr. Paine said.

By stepping up to yields of several hundred tonnes, the "experiments" open many more possibilities for designers, he said.

For one thing, weapons scientists could monitor the complete fission stage and modify designs as a result. For another, plutonium cores manufactured through a new technology could be checked out.

A "zero yield" treaty would block the plans of U.S., French and other scientists for new bomb types: warheads for earth-penetrating weapons, for example, and variable-yield warheads.

The ultimate recommendation from La Jolla may have been foreshadowed in an unclassified report last year by jasons who advised against even the smallest-yield tests under a treaty. The safety and reliability of existing weapons can be ensured by non-nuclear tests for the foreseeable future, it said.

The closed-door debates on the two coasts are of special interest in Moscow. Some in the Russian military complex are looking for reasons to resume testing, said Vladimir Kozin, an arms control specialist at the Russian Foreign Ministry. He said he fears the world will fall back into old habits.

"We are on the verge of reviving the arms race,"

The first ethnic town, Ian T.

THE FALL of the first, coldest, safe area...

Now, for the first time, in this written prospect of a nation, it is stating that the over-estimation of the town that was a tenth of that town were victims of pogroms of the U.N. mission...

NATO air power further protest, fullness of operation and a demand for a withdrawal from...

There was a surprise at U.N. talks in Zagreb, which should have been a success. All three (Serbia, Croatia and Gorizia) are militarily involved in the conflict, said one official...

"The Dutch were not in a fight a desperate action and we're using the Bosnian army..."

Asked where the U.N. war in the Balkans and the failure of roads to deter suggested that it was bankrupt. The strikes close air support and no Dutch troops by the Serbs...

The Serbs help to solve a most acute problem. U.N. How to a 637 Dutch and the fish from the claws and get the harm's way as a withdrawal plan. The chorus of...

By Rima Co. Special to the Jordan Times

ALTHOUGH colour fanatics to elude garlic from for fear of "friendly" authorities and international pharmaceutical research the importance of "pure magic" to be well-being...

"It is common knowledge that the essential for concerned individuals said Munib Saket, F of pharmacists at the Science University. Since World War Japan has been cutting, collecting, and harvesting parts of the (after harvesting) and them with the so-called germs, according...

Israel, Pales (Continued from page 1)

wanted to restrict movement from villages and the movement and

Kabariti mig (Continued from page 1)

"After seven months effort" was crowned by invitation to Kabari Riyaad, the o

The situation between Riyadh and Amman has been consistently moving to a point where a meeting to take place or agree on defining the terms that needed to be worked out, the official said. This is what the bridges had to be built this could only be

Disaster for U.N., disaster for humanity

The fall of Srebrenica, the first 'safe haven' to go, means ethnic cleansing for the town's 42,000 people, writes Ian Traynor

THE FALL OF Srebrenica, the first collapse of a U.N. "safe area" in Bosnia, is a disaster first and foremost for the victims, for the tens of thousands of refugees crammed into the small former silver-mining town in the eastern hills.

Now, for the second time in this wretched war, the prospect of ethnic cleansing is staring them in the face. The overwhelming majority of the estimated 42,000 in a town that was home to a tenth of that before the war were victims of the Serb pogroms of 1992.

For the beleaguered U.N. mission in Bosnia, the failure to safeguard Srebrenica despite calling in NATO air power will raise further protests about the futility of the Bosnian operation and increase the clamour for a U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia.

There was little sense of surprise at U.N. headquarters in Zagreb that Srebrenica should fall. "All three enclaves (Srebrenica, Zepa nearby, and Gorazde to the south) are militarily indefensible," said one officer.

"The Dutch battalion there was not equipped. We're not in a position to fight a desperate rearguard action and we're not fighting the Bosnians for them."

Asked whether the repeated U.N. warnings to the Serbs in the past few days and the failure of NATO air raids to deter the Serbs suggested that U.N. policy was bankrupt, he replied that the strikes were "in close air support" for the Dutch troops in Srebrenica and no Dutch were killed by the Serbs.

The Serb rout, curiously, helps to solve one of the most acute problems for the U.N.: How to extract the 637 Dutch and the 284 British from the eastern enclaves and get them out of harm's way as part of the withdrawal plans.

The chorus of demands

for the U.N. to quit is getting louder, particularly among U.S. politicians and opinion formers. It is generally agreed that the next month will be critical to the U.N.'s remaining in the Balkans, since a decision to forego another Sarajevo winter needs to be taken in August.

That timing coincides with the scheduled arrival in full of the new and well-armed Reaction Force, mainly British and French troops, up to 12,000-strong, that widens General Rupert Smith's options in prosecuting his mandate.

It may be arriving only to leave. A bitter irony is that the new units will bring the size of U.N. force to around 35,000 men, backed by helicopter gunships, advanced weapons, and with NATO air power behind it — the kind of force that might have made a difference two or three years ago.

Even more bitter, it may presage the dispatch of a NATO expeditionary force of up to 60,000 to give the Serbs a bloody nose by way of farewell. The Serbs moved on Srebrenica, and may now move on Zepa, to pre-empt the arrival of the reaction force.

It now looks as though the U.N. is pulling out of Srebrenica. But what happens if the U.N. and its political masters do decide to throw in the towel and pull out of Bosnia too?

The apocalyptic school of punditry predicts a bigger and wider war enveloping most of former Yugoslavia, humanitarian catastrophe, the extension of hostilities to the south roving in Greece, Albania and Turkey, even an old-fashioned proxy superpower conflict, with Washington arming and backing the Muslims and Croats of western Yugoslavia while Moscow rides to the rescue of the Serbs.

All or some of this is possible. But it seems less than probable. The Bosnian war is now into its fourth



Bosnian refugees from Srebrenica wait anxiously to enter a U.N. airport in Tuzla (AFP photo)

year and far from burnt out. Since the Serb blitzkrieg that characterised the early phase in 1992 and the vicious Muslim-Croat conflict that dominated 1993, it has settled into limited and localised offensives focused on securing the valley communications lines so crucial in a mountainous country and the strategic heights that control those routes.

In this ebb and flow... and despite Srebrenica, the tide has turned in favour of the Muslims and Croats, but far from conclusively.

Outright victory remains an extremely remote prospect. No side in Bosnia has the capacity to wage the all-out war feared if the U.N. stops issuing yellow cards and awards itself a red card.

"We're confronted by many myths of our own

making," argues a Western diplomat. "I see no reason for the all-out war. They will continue to have their little needs, to see who can do what where. In this regard, it's irrelevant whether the U.N. is there or not."

According to James Gow, a Balkans military analyst at King's College, London, the war will not

inevitably escalate if the U.N. cuts and runs. "It can go on at the same hobbling level."

Much will depend on the reaction of Serbia and Croatia and on the success of Western pressure in keeping the Muslim-Croat alliance established last year relatively intact.

Of the various war machines, the Yugoslav

(Serbian) army alone is capable of waging a much bigger war and there is no sign that this suits the interests of its boss, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

The spillover triggered by a U.N. departure is far from certain in the south, but inevitable in Croatia. But the 42-month U.N. mission in Croatia is in any case on its last legs and will be lucky to survive the year. Following the Croats' recovery of an expanse of territory in a two-day offensive in May, renewed Croat operations against Serb-held territory are expected by late territory are expected by late summer. But again this likely to be limited, with the Croats, like the Muslims, engaged in nibbling away at Serb holdings.

Mr. Milosevic seems prepared to tolerate this, mitigating the losses around the edges with the kind of limited supplies he continues to send to the diaspora Serbs. The prospect of full victory for the Croats or Muslims would force the Serbian leader to unleash his army, but there is no chance of this in the foreseeable future.

The U.N. presence in Bosnia and Croatia has suited all sides and, inevitably, prolonged the war. It has allowed the Serbs to consolidate their grip on seized land in Croatia and Bosnia behind the U.N. buffer. It has enabled Croatia to build and equip an army from scratch. It has provided a similar breathing space for the Muslims to recover and build up their military prowess.

By its presence and its relief work the U.N. has also, of course, reduced civilian suffering. But that is delivering ever-diminishing returns, as Srebrenica underlines.

After 40 months, the Sarajevo siege is as tight as ever. The aid airlift has been grounded for three months, the longest period ever. The very term "safe haven" is a macabre mockery. The weapons exclusion zones have collapsed. The air exclusion zone is not being enforced. In short, the entire U.N. mandate has dissolved. Most of the troops find themselves standing around in someone else's war with nothing to do.

Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. envoy, argues that by

its presence the U.N. "plays an important role in ensuring, to some degree, the active diplomatic interest of the international community."

There is, however, precious little outside mediation taking place, with the five-power Contact Group in abeyance.

But the biggest obstacle to a U.N. withdrawal is not angst about what might follow in Bosnia or fear of a wider Balkan bloodbath. The factors paralysing a withdrawal decision are NATO's fear that it could go disastrously wrong, the political cost to the alliance and to the U.N. of such an admission of colossal failure, and the perennial U.S. reluctance to commit ground troops.

For these reasons the experts say a more likely scenario is a partial withdrawal out of harm's way that goes by another name — the euphemistic buzzword is "regrouping."

"NATO has two concluded plans, one to implement a settlement, the other for a full evacuation. Neither is likely to happen," says Mr. Gow. "In Srebrenica, the U.N. response is likely to be to pull their guys out of there, which they want to do anyway. They can regroup to get a stronger and more coherent presence, take all the vulnerable soldiers from outlying places, and that clears the way for greater use of air power."

The "regrouping" is already under way. The biggest U.N. contingent in Bosnia is based around Vitez and Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia with relatively safe access to the Adriatic. The new force is to be based at nearby Tomislavgrad, which would also be the NATO evacuation headquarters.

The big "relocation" problems are the 5,000 troops in Sarajevo and the almost 900 in the three eastern pockets, which is why the fall of Srebrenica would appear to help the U.N. out of a fix.

"It may be that we have neither a staying or a going," says the diplomat. "But just a quiet reduction to safe areas."

The regrouping means abandoning safe havens for Bosnian civilians and establishing safe havens for the troops.

The Guardian

There is more to garlic than its unfriendly smell

By Rima Corbahi
Special to the Jordan Times

ALTHOUGH BODY-odour fanatics totally exclude garlic from their diet for fear of ending up "foul-smelling," authoritative sources and international pharmaceutical references stress the importance of this "pure magic" to health and well-being.

"It is common knowledge worldwide that garlic is essential for health," said Mumtaz Saket, professor of pharmacology and dean of pharmacy at the Applied Science University.

Since World War II, Japan has been cultivating garlic, collecting the remaining parts of the bulbs (after harvesting) and mixing them with the soil to kill germs, according to Dr.

Saket. In Korea, he said, statistics show a relatively low rate of heart attacks, and this is because people there "simply eat a lot of garlic." Asians are generally fortunate to use garlic immensely as a flavouring to many of their meals, said Dr. Saket.

A recently presented Canadian documentary discussed how British monarchs prohibited the use of garlic in the 16th or 17th century due to its bad smell; but, according to Dr. Saket, because of the experience of an Indian horsekeeper, who later adopted the remarkable therapeutic effects of garlic on his sick horse, it was since then advised to mix garlic powder with horse food stuff as a protective measure for all horses. Also, he added, the restrictions en-

forced on the use of garlic were no longer applicable. Though indigenous to South Europe and countries of the Mediterranean, the plant can be cultivated in many temperate zones such as China, Japan, Argentina and the U.S. In this region, it is cultivated in the Jordan Valley, Irbid and the West Bank and has a flowering time between April and May.

German pharmaceutical references, said Dr. Saket, state that the documented therapeutic effects of garlic and the medical information gathered about it are reliable for public acknowledgement. Garlic, he said, can be used as a diaphoretic (agent inducing sweat excretion), expectorant, spasmolytic, antiseptic, bacteriostatic, antiviral, hypotensive and anthelmintic (worm

repellent) substance.

However, the main use of garlic in treating chronic bronchitis, respiratory certain (liquid production in the respiratory system), recurrent colds, whooping cough, bronchitic asthma and influenza shows that it can very suitably substitute for antibiotics, according to Dr. Saket. "In certain cases, garlic is combined with other types of plants to enhance its effects on the body," he said.

Many conditions have proved garlic to be more effective than penicillin and other antibiotics; hence it is used to kill many germs in the blood, said Khamis Bitar, owner of Systems Scientific Research Centre. Also, an active ingredient extracted from garlic proved, after purification and analysis, to be good for

fighting against cancer, said Mr. Bitar.

With volatile oil, sulphur compounds and vitamins A, B and C as constituents, both garlic and garlic oil have diverse uses for the body. According to Dr. Saket, garlic was valued by many ancient civilisations as a popular remedy as well as a flavouring agent. The Codex Ebers, an Egyptian medical papyrus dating back to about 1550 B.C., mentioned garlic in 22 therapeutic formulae that are present in Egypt until this day, Dr. Saket said.

Garlic oil, according to Mr. Khamis, can activate the body, boost the appetite, sterilise wounds, soothe local pains (due to rheumatism and dental, gum or ear problems etc.), treat dandruff, protect diabetics from certain com-

plications associated with the disease, cure the effects of nicotine poisoning, lower blood pressure, safeguard against cardiovascular problems, control cholesterol levels in the blood, prevent worm invasion in the body, destroy lice and even treat foot corns.

Documented articles reveal that garlic lowers blood cholesterol, triglycerides and blood viscosity, said Dr. Saket. It also activates fibrinolysis and inhibits platelet aggregation, which, he added, lowers the chances of a heart attack. Because its active ingredient contains allicin (sulphur compound), garlic has also a beneficial effect on blood lipids, blood pressure and blood coagulation, Dr. Saket said.

According to German

scientists, garlic decreases blood cholesterol and triglycerides due to its tendency to reduce the level of low density lipoproteins (LDL) in the blood and increase that of high density lipoproteins (HDL), producing a favourable shift in the HDL:LDL ratio, according to Dr. Saket.

Moreover, researchers from Germany, England and India recently confirmed that blood pressure may be reduced as a result of the use of garlic, especially in hypertensive patients. The plant, he added, also decreases blood viscosity, thus improving blood fluidity, and with mild vasodilation, leading to better capillary flow of blood. An article published in British Medical Journal recently ensured that all the above mentioned effects of garlic

tend to lower the risks of cardiovascular diseases.

Finally, Dr. Saket said, different articles in many international journals point out that garlic has a broad spectrum of anti-microbial activities. Recommended dosage for health-conscious adults includes a daily intake of two to five grams of dried garlic bulbs, two to four millilitres of garlic syrup, 0.03 to 0.12 ml of garlic oil or any other equivalent preparation. However, only small diluted doses should be administered to children.

With all the benefits of garlic to human health, it is no wonder that "nowadays many countries of the developed world hold garlic festivals in recognition and appreciation of the diverse uses this valuable natural resource," Dr. Saket said.

Israel, Palestinians in marathon talks

(Continued from page 1)

wanted to restrict redeployment from villages and limit the movement and security

responsibilities of Palestinian police there.

"We will continue today to try to iron out the differences," a PLO official said. Meanwhile Jewish settlers

Kabariti might visit Riyadh 'soon'

(Continued from page 1)

"After seven months this effort 'was crowned by the invitation to Kabariti to visit Riyadh,' the official said.

The situation between Riyadh and Amman has been consistently moving to a point where a meeting had to take place if only to agree on defining the differences that needed to be ironed out, the official said. "This is what the latest meeting did exactly. Bridges had to be built and this could only be done

through a dialogue that would move us from an abnormal to a normal situation."

Officials admit that "some sensitivities, some actual problems" remain. "But a mood for reconciliation has been created," as a senior official put it.

"What matters is that the talks were deep, frank and pragmatic. Each Saudi grievance was met by a Jordanian explanation and vice-versa," the official said. "Hopefully we are close to restoring full understanding and reconciliation."

threw stones, tomatoes and eggs at Chairman Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi near Jerusalem on Monday but he escaped unscathed, witnesses and settlers said.

"We are talking about uncivilised vigilantes. They know the only option they have is to leave our land in Palestine and move back to their homes in Israel," Mr. Tibi, an Israeli Arab physician, told Reuters. He said he was unharmed.

The settlers first targeted Mr. Tibi near the West Bank settlement of Tekoa where he was taping an Israel television programme on the future of the settlements with Jewish settler Rabbi Menachem Froman.

A television crew member was lightly injured. A short time later settlers, waiting for him near the Efrat settlement, blocked the road with their cars. When Mr. Tibi approached in his car, several dozen settlers began throwing rocks and eggs, the witnesses said.

Aharon Domb, a spokesman for the settlers who confirmed the incidents, said Mr. Tibi should consider himself lucky to have escaped unharmed.

"Any enemy of Israel... deserves worse," Mr. Domb said. Also Monday, right-wing protesters rioted outside a court where Jewish teenagers arrested in occupied West Bank were appearing.

Jewish settlers also put up mobile homes and a makeshift synagogue at Olive Hill, a West Bank site where they blocked roads and scuffled with police last week in protest over the planned Israeli troop withdrawal.

Resistance by Jewish settlers in the West Bank is growing as Israel and the PLO negotiate the final details of a troop pullout and expansion of Palestinian self-rule. Two police officers were hurt and three protesters were arrested in Monday's protest outside the Jerusalem

magistrate's court, a police spokesman said.

Twenty-five people were detained early Sunday for demonstrating and blocking traffic outside the police station in Hebron, where a teenager was being questioned for shooting a Palestinian man with a slingshot.

Eight teenagers who were arrested appeared in court Monday morning and were released, police said.

"It is very hard to believe that Jews treat Jews like they are enemies," said one of the teens.

Near the Kiryat Arba settlement next to Hebron, dozens of settlers occupied a vacant apartment building on Sunday night. Settler Rina Kadosh said the action was a protest against the detention of the teenagers.

Rabin defends Arafat

Prime Minister Rabin dismissed international criticism of Mr. Arafat's crackdown on Islamic militants, saying hu-

man rights violations counted less than success in stopping terrorism.

In a speech to Jewish fund-raisers, Mr. Rabin noted a report from the human rights group Amnesty International that blasted Mr. Arafat for violating international conventions.

"I wish that no one will support Amnesty about this issue," he said.

Amnesty demanded in April that Mr. Arafat dismantle a military court that has secretly tried more than a dozen suspected Islamic militants, including four 14-year-olds.

Mr. Arafat set up the court in response to pressure from Israel and the United States to combat violent opposition to the peace process.

Mr. Rabin said most important was that Mr. Arafat was attempting to stop violence that has killed 124 Israelis since the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace treaty in September 1993.

House panel demands equal treatment

(Continued from page 1)

In the Parliament's session at the end of last month, opposition deputies, headed by the IAF's 16-member bloc, managed only 21 votes against 46 in favour of referring the draft law to the joint Judiciary and Financial Committees.

While Islamist deputies strongly fought against the draft law in principle, centrist deputies called for conditioning land sale to Israel with reciprocal action from the Jewish state.

They argued that the Israeli government owns 93 per cent of the land in the Jewish state and bans the sale of private ownership to foreigners. The Israeli real estate market is closed to all foreigners in accordance with Israeli laws.

Dr. Dughmi asserted that the new amendments added to the draft law included all forms of safeguards against any future manipulation of the law and that all land sale or lease to foreigners will be controlled by the government.

The Islamic deputies had also exerted several attempts in the past to block or postpone the discussion of the draft law.

The draft law is expected to be referred to the House next week. On the House's agenda at the moment is the draft labour law with 108 out of its 145 articles approved. On Wednesday's agenda is a 35-article draft law on the environment that is not expected to draw extensive debate.

UAE boosts water, power output to face demand

LIGHTNING!

business daily beat.
A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Jordan to take part in 3 trade fairs

The Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation will participate in three international fairs which will be held in Syria, Greece and South Africa. JEDCO sources said 34 Jordanian companies applied to participate in the Damascus International Fair which will be held in the period Aug.-Sept. 10. The sources said 19 Jordanian companies also applied to take part in a fair in Athens, Greece, in the period Sept. 9-18 and 37 companies in the South African fair in the period Oct. 24-28. Meanwhile, JEDCO is still preparing for holding the first Jordanian industrial fair in London in the period Nov. 14-18. The Jordanian embassy in London was asked by JEDCO to arrange for holding the fair in the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, which offered to host the fair for free (Al Rai).

The general assembly of the Petra Projects and Equipment Leasing Company and the Jordan and the Gulf Real Estate Investments Company agreed to merge the two companies in one shareholding company to be named Al Ittihad (union) Land Development Company. The JD 4.5 capital of the Jordan and Gulf Real Estate Development Company and JD 500,000 capital of the Petra company will be combined to constitute the JD 5 million capital of the new company. The new company's shareholders will meet within two weeks to elect a board of directors and auditors. The head of an executive committee supervising the process of merging the two companies suffering from financial problems, Mohammad Bilbeisi, said the merger took place after a group of investors intervened to save the two companies. He said the new company will be importing and buying various construction and agricultural machinery and equipment and will be leasing them. The capital of the Jordan and Gulf company was earlier reduced from JD 3 million to JD 1.5 million because of the accumulative losses it suffered. A group of investors recently raised the capital to JD 4.5 million. The Petra company's capital was reduced from JD 1 million to JD 500,000 for the same reason (Al Rai).

Jordan's consumption of bread rose from 88.6 kilograms a year in 1986 to 116.1 kilograms in 1992, President of the Bakeries Owners Association Abdul Ilah Hamawi said. He said 90 per cent of bread produced in Jordan is Arabic, or pita bread (Al Aswak).

Saudi says to self finance huge plane deal

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's powerful Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan was quoted on Monday as saying the government would itself finance a deal worth about \$7.5 billion for 61 U.S.-made aircraft.

"God willing, the financing will be in all circumstances be from the state's treasury," Prince Sultan was quoted as saying late on Sunday in response to a question.

"But how, when and on what basis, that is left to the finance minister to handle," he said in remarks carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

One senior banker said Prince Sultan's remarks "are a very important development. It is the first (official) indication ever they (Riyadh)

would provide guarantees." "It is a good indication that the government will pay," he added saying that it could mean that Riyadh was no longer considering project or commercial financing. But some diplomats and bankers appeared confused. They said the remarks did not appear to shed new light on financing terms for what has been dubbed "the deal of the decade" to renew the ageing fleet of the flag-carrier Saudi Arabian Airlines Corp. (Saudia).

It also remained unclear if differences with the U.S. export credit agency Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank on guarantees for the deal had been resolved. "It could be nothing at all, just a quick answer to a ques-

tion," said a western source in Riyadh. "We really have no clarifications and it is very confusing." A western economic attache in Riyadh said "it is really still unclear what the prince means ... it is confusing." A month ago, the prince disclosed the long-awaited breakdown of aircraft allocations to Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. and said contracts would be signed "within a few days." Engine allocations are yet to be announced. "While the technical assessment of the deal finalised, there was nothing final then on financing," said a senior banker in the kingdom. "We were not there

yet," he added. Riyadh has held talks with Ex-Im Bank to guarantee 85 per cent of the deal. It was at the same time considering other options including commercial financing. Saudi Arabia, strapped for cash in recent years due to weak oil prices, has apparently secured an accord with the aircraft makers to split guarantees needed for the remaining 15 per cent, industry experts said earlier. Saudi Arabia recorded a \$10.7 billion deficit in its 1994 budget despite cutting the budget by 20 per cent. But this year oil income has been higher than forecast, fuelling hopes that a \$4 billion shortfall in the \$40 billion budget could disappear.

Iran seeks new aircraft, but on soft loan basis

NICOSIA (R) — Iran plans to buy more commercial planes provided their purchase was on a soft loan basis, Roads and Transport Minister Akbar Torkan was quoted on Monday as saying.

The official IRNA news agency quoted him as saying

in an interview with the English-language newspaper Iran News that Iran also had plans to increase the price of air tickets. Mr. Torkan said: "Iran is planning to purchase more planes with the sole condition that the purchase be made on

soft loan basis." He did not say how many aircraft the country planned to buy or from whom, but said it was not interested in buying U.S.-manufactured Boeings because it had offers from other manufacturers such as Europe's Airbus Industrie.

U.S. President Bill Clinton in May announced a ban on U.S. companies dealing with Iran because of its alleged sponsorship of terrorism and its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charges.

Iran has two state-owned airlines, Iran Air and Iran Asseman Airlines, and several small, newly established private carriers. Mr. Torkan said Iran had been offered passenger planes from French, Russian, Chinese and Dutch manufacturers. "We have no problem in this regard." "Iran Air purchased five Airbus and six Fokker planes, and Asseman purch-

ased four Boeing 727s, four Fokkers and five ATR passenger planes since the advent of the Islamic revolution in 1979, he said.

ATR is a Franco-Italian joint venture and Fokker is Dutch. The magazine Flight International said in April Iran Air had a fleet of 31 aircraft — 18 Boeings of various types, five Airbus A-300-B2s, two Airbus A-300-600s and six Fokker 100s.

Asseman had 20 planes, four of them Boeing 727s, it said. Mr. Torkan said Iran's supreme economic council was studying his ministry's proposal for raising air ticket prices. He said Iranian airlines were currently charging \$10 per hour of flights, compared with \$140 in the United States, \$100 in Europe and \$80 in Asia. The low fares meant no capital investment could be made in the industry from ticket sales, Mr. Torkan said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUNBISAM				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 17/07/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIG	150	138495	211.000	209.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4583	20926	4.560	4.560
BANK OF JORDAN	1100	3740	3.420	3.400
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	200	810	2.540	2.550
THE HOUSING BANK	700	5679	8.100	8.120
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	1179	3355	2.850	2.840
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	500000	1975000	3.900	3.950
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1666	6239	3.740	3.760
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2600	10790	4.150	4.150
NETZ KHALA SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	250	925	3.700	3.700
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37954	42507	1.110	1.120
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1700	8774	5.150	5.290
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	16000	27449	1.720	1.710
BANKS SECTOR	568592	2244383	INDEX NUMBER: 175.58	CHANGE: -0.47%
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	250	663	2.650	2.650
YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	1000	3300	3.260	3.300
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	250	663	2.650	2.650
THE NATIONAL ABILA INSURANCE	2672	8016	3.000	3.000
INSURANCE SECTOR	4172	12641	INDEX NUMBER: 135.68	CHANGE: -0.08%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	38294	63989	1.640	1.680
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	5300	30210	6.000	5.700
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	500	1428	2.860	2.860
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2150	4744	2.200	2.210
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1650	1700	1.010	1.030
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CORRIDORE HOTELS	4750	10440	2.230	2.200
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	8775	28694	3.270	3.270
SERVICES SECTOR	61449	141240	INDEX NUMBER: 129.53	CHANGE: -0.94%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	5795	20965	3.590	3.650
ARAB PROSPERITY MINES	1700	5109	3.000	3.010
THE ARAB POTASH	400	2040	5.100	5.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	5280	54135	10.130	10.300
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	650	5021	7.750	7.750
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3566	17155	4.790	4.830
JORDAN DAIRY	750	1725	2.300	2.300
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1850	4697	2.530	2.540
DAR AL DAKA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2300	17855	7.800	7.800
ARAB FERTILISER & CHEMICALS	3000	2250	7.740	7.750
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	400	2170	5.430	5.450
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	84100	42050	5.000	5.000
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	950	1311	1.380	1.380
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	250	578	2.330	2.330
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	200417	228467	1.130	1.140
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2750	6315	2.260	2.280
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	350	1687	5.070	4.820
JORDAN BUILDING-CHEMICALS	3550	5544	1.560	1.570
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	650	1428	2.200	2.190
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1100	3509	3.170	3.190
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	30990	66229	2.100	2.160
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	11550	21632	1.860	1.870
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	362385	512096	INDEX NUMBER: 128.11	CHANGE: +0.69%
GRAND TOTAL	996598	2910360	INDEX NUMBER: 152.24	CHANGE: -0.12%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET				155715
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET				184652

Financial Jordan Times				
Markets In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close 14/7/95	Tokyo Close 17/7/95		
Sterling Pound	1.5945	1.5940**		
Deutsche Mark	1.3910	1.3974		
Swiss Franc	1.1635	1.1676**		
French Franc	4.4475	4.4572**		
Japanese Yen	87.85	86.65		
European Currency Unit	1.3403	1.3273**		

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
Date: 17/7/1995				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.56	5.50	5.43
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.62	6.75	7.00
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.31	4.31
Swiss Franc	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35
French Franc	6.52	6.31	6.18	6.12
Japanese Yen	0.68	0.68	0.62	0.62
European Currency Unit	4.46	5.67	5.96	6.09

Precious Metals				
Date: 17/7/1995				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	388.15	7.50	Silver	5.23

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Date: 17/7/1995				
Currency	Buy	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000		
Sterling Pound	1.1095	1.1150		
Deutsche Mark	0.4488	0.5013		
Swiss Franc	0.5965	0.5995		
French Franc	0.1436	0.1443		
Japanese Yen	0.7463	0.7992		
Dutch Guilder	0.4456	0.4480		
Swedish Krona	0.0432	0.0454		
Italian Lira	0.0432	0.0454		
Belgian Franc	0.0432	0.0454		

Other Currencies				
Date: 17/7/1995				
Currency	Buy	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.6350	1.8480		
Lebanese Lira	0.042150	0.043260		
Saudi Riyal	0.1856	0.1870		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2900	2.3530		
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1918		
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160		
Omani Riyal	1.8040	1.8150		
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1904		
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.3285		
Cypriot Pound	1.5005	1.5850		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3556/66	Deutschemarks
1.3962/72	Dutch guilders
1.5636/46	Swiss francs
1.1678/88	Belgian francs
28.72/76	French francs
4.8550/00	Italian lire
1610.2/5.2	Japanese yen
88.70/80	Swedish crowns
7.1825/25	Norwegian crowns
6.1990/40	Danish crowns
5.4375/25	
\$1.5936/46	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	\$388.20/388.70

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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At Torino

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Chris Evert

Evert inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (AP) — For someone whose game was basic baseline — some called it boring — Chris Evert sure made a showy entrance into the international tennis Hall of Fame.

Former U.S. President George Bush did the honors Sunday, presenting Evert with her enshrinement certificate at the site where America's first national championship was held.

"This weekend is not only about the results, but the beginning," Evert said. However, the results of her 18-year career were staggering.

She won at least one Grand Slam tournament singles title every year between 1974 and 1986 — three times at Wimbledon, twice at the Australian Open, a record of seven French Opens and six U.S. Opens. Add three Grand Slam doubles victories — two with arch-rival Martina Navratilova — and 139 other professional singles

titles and the "boring baseline" tag simply disappears. "I belong here," Evert said of the Hall of Fame. "This is one big happy family."

And her entire family shared occasion with her. Besides her husband, former Alpine skier Andy Mill, others watching the ceremony included her parents, Jim and Colette, and most of her siblings and their families.

Sunday's festivity was a rare time when a former American president played what he called "a cameo role."

"I don't do news conference. I don't do issues. I do what I like to do in life," Bush said shortly after arriving in Newport, once the playground of America's richest families. "I came here as a tennis fan, sometime player and friend and avid supporter of Chris."

In that, Bush joined the throngs who paid tribute to a woman who was ranked No. 1 in the world eight

times during her career. "Can't get any better than that," Evert said of Bush's participation in her enshrinement. "It's the best."

"He's welcomed us into his family. He always remembers his friends and his family. He still remains very down to earth."

Following the ceremony, Bush and Evert went to a practice court and played a friendly doubles match against Hall of Fame vice president Pam Shriver, still a touring pro, and Mill.

Until she retired, Evert said she didn't have time to consider the titles she was busy winning.

"When you're a player, you're just concerned about the now," Evert said of her place in history. "I feel a part of it now."

Known for her tenacity and her poise, two Evert records may never be matched, let alone broken. She won 125 consecutive matches on clay from Au-

gust 1973 to May 1979, when she lost to Tracy Austin in the Italian Open semifinals. Ironically, Austin, whose career was halted by injury, entered the Hall of Fame three years ago, although she's younger than Evert.

Another unapproachable Evert record is her reaching the semifinals or better in 52 of the 56 Grand Slam tournaments in which she played.

"I don't miss the pressure," she said. "It's not the best thing and it begins playing tricks with you. But I miss playing tennis. Because I worked so hard...there's no moment like it."

Now a mother of two sons, Evert on Sunday was again a winner.

"I hope I can be a role model to the young people who have a dream," she said. "I wasn't the best athlete or the quickest or the strongest. But anything is possible if you want it bad enough."

Prinosil beats Wheaton for 1st ATP title

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (AP) — Sixth-seeded David Prinosil used a blistering first serve and strong service return Sunday to upset defending champion David Wheaton in the Hall of Fame tennis championships.

Prinosil won 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 6-2 for his first ATP Tour title. The 22-year-old Czech native and German citizen had 16 aces and won 85 per cent of the points on his first serve.

Prinosil said after losing the second set, he tried to concentrate more. "I had the chance to win the second set, but I stayed in the match and I just kept going and felt better and better," he said.

"I knew he had a good serve going in and he proved it," said Wheaton, who had not dropped a set in four previous matches. "It wasn't only his serve, he returned my serve very well. He just returned better than anyone else the whole week against me."

Wheaton, seeded No. 1, appeared to gain momentum in the second set when he broke Prinosil to go up 6-5, then served out the set after two deuces. But Prinosil held at love in the opening game of the third set and broke Wheaton in the fourth game.

"I played a careless game at 2-1," Wheaton said. "I missed a couple of volleys and that was critical. Once he won that game he played a good game to go up 4-1 and he was really on a roll."

Prinosil broke Wheaton in the final game, rocketing a forehand winner off Wheaton's serve on match point and letting out a yelp of delight.

Prinosil started slowly, needing six deuces just to hold serve 1-1 in the first set. But then he broke Wheaton at love and held serve with an ace to go up 3-1.

Trailing love-40, Wheaton surprised Prinosil with an underhand serve and followed it to the net, smashing home Prinosil's feeble return.

Wheaton eventually won the game and broke Prinosil to get back on serve at 3-3.

"He was returning so well. I figured this might change it up a little bit," Wheaton said of the underhand serve. "He had taken some of my best serves and hit them right by me. I knew he wouldn't be expecting it."

Prinosil admitted he was caught off guard by the underhand serve, which he said he last saw "once" in juniors.

"I just lost my concentration after that point," he said.

After splitting the next six games, Prinosil used three aces during the tiebreaker to win it 7-3 and take the first set.

Prinosil and Wheaton held serve through nine games of the second set. Prinosil, leading 5-4, was within two points of victory when Wheaton bore down, holding serve, then breaking Prinosil when

the German double-faulted on Wheaton's advantage. Wheaton served out the set when Prinosil missed two forehands at deuce.

Though Wheaton had experience and momentum on his side, Prinosil went back to his strength and used powerful first serves to hold all four service games in the final set, while breaking Wheaton twice.

Wheaton defeated Prinosil in straight sets the quarterfinals of last year's Hall of Fame tournament, the only U.S. pro event played on grass. He said he saw a different Prinosil this time.

"He really showed he was calm under pressure" out there," Wheaton said. "Last year, I won the first set and the second set, his concentration went way down. This year he was able to deal with adversity a lot better."

Prinosil collected \$32,600 for the victory, which moved his world ranking up 17 spots, to No. 75.

Hill and Schumacher reprimanded after crash

SILVERSTONE (R) — Title rivals Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher were severely reprimanded and warned about their future conduct after a controversial crash in the British Grand Prix on Sunday.

Their collision on the 44th of 61 laps overshadowed the race and a great win for Benetton driver Johnny Herbert, the Briton's first in Formula One at the 71st attempt.

The stewards said both German Schumacher, in a Benetton, and Briton Hill, driving a Williams, were partially responsible for the collision in which Hill dived down the inside at priority corner but failed to brake in time as the German moved into the corner.

The reprimand came after hearing the version of each driver and watching video replays. The pair were told future similar actions could result in severe penalties.

Benetton managing director Flavio Briatore slammed Hill as an unworthy contender for the World Drivers' Championship after the crash.

Briatore, irritated by what he perceived to be a reckless piece of driving by the Briton, said: "I am still deeply surprised at what Damon did. I believe that a driver who is challenging for the World Championship and acts in that way does not really deserve it."

Schumacher said Hill's move was "totally unnecessary and stupid."

"What can I say? I think what Damon did was totally unnecessary. In fact, it was really stupid. There was no room for two cars and there is no place to overtake there."

"It is such a small straight and even if you brake into it, it is almost impossible. If I had not seen there, I think he would have gone straight into the gravel."

The collision between the two main protagonists for the world title revived memories of their crash in Adelaide last year at the Australian Grand Prix and the old bitter rivalry and crashes involving Alain Prost of France and the late Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

Asked if he felt the accident would cause reprisals at the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim in two weeks time, Briatore said: "No, I don't think so. The Germans are for more intelligent than Hill."

Hill did not believe he was to blame, saying: "We were having a great race and it was very exciting."

"I thought I saw an opportunity that I could take advantage of but I am afraid that Michael is a harder man to pass than that and we had an accident which I would describe as a racing accident."



Thomas Muster

Muster prepares to bounce back

STUTTGART (AFP) — French Open champion Thomas Muster, whose remarkable 40-match winning streak on clay came to an end last week when he was beaten by Spaniard Alex Corretja at Gstaad, hopes to turn the page and reproduce his winning touch at this week's one million dollar ATP tournament here.

The powerful 27-year-old Austrian baseliner, currently ranked fourth, is clearly determined to erase all memory of his shock first-round defeat in Switzerland with a good run in Stuttgart.

"I haven't lost in a long time. It's an unfamiliar feeling for me," he said after losing to Corretja.

This week his main rival should be Spain's second-seeded Sergi Bruguera — although dangerous

Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia, who beat Bruguera in the semi-finals in Gstaad before winning the title there, will also be in the draw.

Home hopes will be pinned on Bernd Karbacher, Marc Goellner and Martin Sinner since top Germans Boris Becker and Michael Stich are not taking part.

Kafelnikov triumphs at Gstaad

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov outlasted Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 claiming the \$560,000 Swiss Open for his third title of the season and first ever on clay.

The victory also will move Kafelnikov, who earlier this year won in Milan, Italy, and St. Petersburg, Russia, past Goran Ivanisevic into sixth place when the ATP tour releases its computer rankings on Monday.

Hlasek never overcame the interruptions of two rain delays and appeared to lack the confidence he showed in his 6-3, 6-4 semifinal victory over Marc Rosset.

Kafelnikov, 21, who beat reigning three-time champion Sergi Bruguera in the semifinals, took control early.

Poaching hits Nantes' hopes

PARIS (AFP) — Nantes' attempt at a second consecutive French title has been hampered by two major departures from their ranks, but they remain strong favourites this season with Paris Saint Germain and Monaco.

Paris Saint Germain kick off at Bastia on Tuesday in a rematch of their League Cup final to herald the first 1995-96 fixture of Europe's major football leagues with the Tour France cycling race still running.

Nicolas Ouedec and Reynald Pedros are still there to give the Champions League hopefuls Nantes punch up front.

But leading scorer Patrice Loko, signed by Paris Saint Germain for an undisclosed fee on Saturday, and defender-cum-midfielder Christian Karembou, who joined Italy's Sampdoria for 4.5 million dollars, have flown the nest.

Nantes, facing bankruptcy two years ago, could not re-

fuse the offers for the New Caledonia-born French international and Loko. Both were determined to leave.

Pedros extended his contract by a year but several other squad members only stayed because they were unable to find buyers.

But Nantes coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau has no doubts the dissenters have already fallen in line and will give their all for Nantes.

"Of course there is a passion which is burning within most of my players," but I know certain people have changed their attitude and that will only benefit the group," Suaudeau said.

Two new recruits — both French under-21 internationals — could play a major role this season.

Rennes midfielder Jocelyn Gourvenne and Montpellier defender Bruno Carotti have already impressed Suaudeau in two summer friendlies.

But Suaudeau does not expect to match last year's league campaign when Nantes lost just one match.

Their first match of the new season is at home to Auxerre on Wednesday and by September the holders will have also played championship contenders PSG and Bordeaux.

Paris Saint Germain, who in the last three seasons have reached the semi-finals of all three European competitions, have knocked everything down to start again.

George Weah has gone to AC Milan, David Ginola to Newcastle, Brazilians Valdo and Ricardo have signed for Portugal's Benfica, and Antoine Kombouare has gone to Switzerland's Sion.

PSG coach Luis Fernandez will be expecting much of Panamanian striker Dely Valdes, signed from Cagliari, and 27-year-old midfielder Youri Djorkaeff from Monaco.

Colin Jackson left off World Championship team

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Angry British track officials on Monday left world champion hurdler Colin Jackson off the team for next month's World Championships in Sweden.

The British Athletic Federation, however, said Jackson could be reinstated if he proves his "competitive fitness" in time for the Aug.

4-13 championships in Goteborg.

Jackson pulled out of the national championships in Birmingham on Saturday after running in one heat, citing a groin muscle injury.

However, he turned up at a meet Sunday in Padua, Italy, and won the 110-metre hurdles. He reportedly received an appearance fee of \$35,000.

"I am surprised and disappointed that Colin was not able to perform in front of a British crowd, but ran well so soon afterwards," BAF executive chairman Peter Radford said.

He said Jackson would be asked for an explanation. Team coach Malcolm Arnold, who has coached

Jackson since he was 16, said, "I feel very disappointed at what has happened."

Jackson set the world record of 12.91 seconds when he won the sprint hurdles at the 1993 World Championship in Stuttgart, Germany. He has been below form for most of this season.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TAIWAN SURGE
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PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 8 5
♥ J 8 6
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7 3

WEST
♠ 9 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ 10 4 2
♣ A J 10

EAST
♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ 7
♣ 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K 3
♥ A Q 2
♦ A K 9 3
♣ A Q 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

televising the king and jack of spades from hand, there is no sure entry to dummy to cash the two high spades.

A thoughtful declarer would realize the problem only after winning the first trick with the nine of diamonds. South could free the spades and then try underleading the ace of diamonds, but West would win the queen and declarer would still be short out of dummy. Alternatively, declarer might overtake a spade and try the club finesse, but when that fails there are only eight tricks.

As so often happens, the key play comes at the very first trick. Since it is most unlikely that West has led a trump, South should win the opening lead with the king of diamonds, hand. After cashing the ace of diamonds and continuing the suit, declarer still makes the same three to the spades in diamonds. Now nine tricks are assured.

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Miguel Indurain

Indurain plays waiting game

GUZET-NEIGE, France (AP) — Monday was no day of rest for challengers in the Tour de France. It was a time to look for ways to catch Tour de France leader Miguel Indurain.

They haven't so far. As the tour enters its final week, Indurain has his fifth consecutive title virtually locked up. Only sickness or an accident can keep Indurain from entering the history books as the first rider to win five in a row.

Belgian Eddy Merckx and Frenchman Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault are the other five-time winners, but none ever put together a string to match the Spaniard.

The race begins two days in the mountains on Tuesday, then features an individual time trial on Saturday. The race ends in Paris on July 23 after completing a clockwise loop of approximately 3,635 kilometres (2,254 miles).

The challengers may take their chances and try to make breakaways, but all Indurain has to do is accelerate in the final miles to limit the margin and wait for the next day.

Indurain turned 31 on Sunday and celebrated this birthday the same way he has done in the last few years — wearing the leader's yellow jersey.

He came in third in Sunday's 14th stage on the 164-kilometre leg from St. Orens de Gameville to Guzet-Neige to maintain his lead.

Italy's Marco Pantani took the stage as the race came to

the edge of the Pyrenees.

The 25-year-old Pantani, third in last year's tour, won the difficult L'A-e D'Huez mountain stage last week. He attacked over the last 40 kilometres, with four climbs of varying degrees left in the stage.

pack until the last four kilometres (1.2 miles), when he accelerated and almost caught Madonas at the finish. Alex Zülle of Switzerland, runnersup in the overall standings, sprinted with Indurain but lost a couple seconds and now trails by

Tour de France

He built an advantage of almost three minutes over the pack entering the final climb, which as a category one section ranks among the toughest under the tour definition of steepness, length and difficulty.

With rain and fog over the last hour of the race, Pantani won by 2 minutes, 31 seconds over Laurent Madonas of France.

Pantani moved to seventh overall, but is still a daunting 10:07 behind Indurain.

Indurain was in the main

2-46.

"I wasn't afraid of the attack of Pantani because he was still down in the standings," Indurain said. "But I was afraid of falls because of the rain and fog."

Laurent Jalabert of France remained third overall, but lost almost a minute to fourth-place Bjørn Riis of Denmark.

"As to the others, I am controlling them," Indurain said. "It's a cat-and-mouse game and Jalabert is starting to pay for his efforts."

OVERALL STANDINGS (After 14 stages)

1. Miguel Indurain, Spain, Banesto, 63:28:29
2. Alex Zülle, Switzerland, Once, 2:46 behind
3. Laurent Jalabert, France, Once, 4:28
4. Bjørn Riis, Denmark, Gewiss, 9:01
5. Ivan Gotti, Italy, Gewiss, 9:01
6. Melchor Mauri, Spain, Once, 9:24
7. Marco Pantani, Italy, Carrera, 10:07
8. Tony Rominger, Switzerland, Mapei, 12:03
9. Fernando Escartin, Spain, Mapei, 15:17
10. Hernan Buenahora, Colombia, Kelme, 15:23
11. Claudio Chiappucci, Italy, Carrera, 15:52
12. Laurent Madonas, France, Castorama, 17:22
13. Richard Virenque, France, Festina, 17:28
14. Paolo Lanfranchi, Italy, Brescialla, 21:43
15. Bruno Cenghialta, Italy, Gewiss, 23:50

33 boxers test HIV-positive in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Thirty-three South African professional boxers have been refused licences after testing positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, a doctor said on Monday.

Sam Pitsoe, a doctor employed by the South African Boxing Control Commission, said the AIDS test was included in the standard medical examination in 1994 after a champion fighter tested positive in Las Vegas.

"We decided to include the HIV test in the examination for the safety of the boxers," Pitsoe told Reuters.

He said 1994 figures showed the boxers, ranging in age from 22 to 37, included up to 10 who had fought in international competitions. Figures for this year are not yet available.

"Natal seems to have the highest number and the western Cape the lowest," he said.

Pitsoe said he suspected KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of HIV-positive boxers because of the many prostitutes in the area.

"I think maybe (Natal's figure is higher) because of the prostitutes who are infected by sailors coming through (Durban) harbour," he said.

Lions roar again

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Former champions Cameroon bounced back into contention for a place at the 1996 African Nations' Cup finals with an unexpected 3-1 away victory over Malawi in Group 1 at the weekend.

The result ensured Zaire qualified from the four-team section, and the Indomitable Lions will join them in South Africa next January provided they avoid defeat when Zimbabwe visit the Atlantic port of Douala on July 30.

rewarded after 55 minutes when Chance Gondwe chipped a free kick to John Maduka, whose shot gave William Andem no chance.

But Cameroon were unruffled by the setback and scored the decisive third goal midway through the second period when Mouyeme rose to head home a right-wing cross.

The Lions, who had lost in Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Zaire, often baffled the nervous Malawians with the simplicity of their tactics, concentrating on long balls to an attack full of pace and invention.

Mozambique took a giant step towards qualifying from Group 6 when they overcame pace-setters Angola 2-1 in a clash of Portuguese-speaking nations in Maputo.

AFRICAN SOCCER

Although spurred on by a capacity 60,000 crowd, including President Bakili Muluzi, in Blantyre, Malawi conceded a goal after only five minutes against a country which lifted the title in 1984 and 1988.

Sunday Jang floated a free-kick into the Malawian goalmouth, where Joseph Mbarga shrugged off a defender and scored as goalkeeper Ganizani Masiye kept the wrong way.

Mbarga, an experienced forward who helped Cameroon reach the 1994 World Cup finals, turned creator for the second goal three minutes before half-time.

He pushed a free kick to French-based Georges Mouyeme, who claimed his third goal of the qualifying competition with a fierce 35-metre drive past a stunned Masiye.

A livelier Malawian side opened the second half with a series of attacks and were

plenty of their tactics, concentrating on long balls to an attack full of pace and invention.

Mozambique took a giant step towards qualifying from Group 6 when they overcame pace-setters Angola 2-1 in a clash of Portuguese-speaking nations in Maputo.

Defender Sergio 'Faife' Matola put the Mozambicans ahead in the 15th minutes and Emmanuel 'Nana' Matola made it 2-0 within 60 seconds of the restart at a packed Machava Stadium.

Antonio 'Paulao' Alves from Lisbon club Benfica pulled-one back after 75 minutes for Angola, who suffered their first reverse since losing 3-1 in Guinea last October.

Mozambique have 13 points, one more than Angola, and both are guaranteed places at the showpiece of African soccer if they win their final fixtures.

Fangio, the humble champion, dies

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Juan Manuel Fangio, widely regarded as the greatest racing driver of them all, was a modest man who put his record five World Championships down to luck.

The Argentine dominated Grand Prix racing in the 1950s by winning 24 of the 51 races he contested.

Once asked for the secret of his success, he replied: "Seventy-five per cent of it is car and the team around it. Only 25 per cent is the driver...and much of that is to do with luck. I am surprised that so many people remember what I did — All my life I have been very lucky."

Aggressive in the cockpit, he was a gentle, friendly and likeable person off the track.

"Motor racing is something you must do with passion," he said when he quit in 1958. "You must love it as a painter loves to paint and it requires great dedication."

Fangio's 24 Grand Prix victories put him seventh in the all-time rankings, behind Alain Prost (France) 51, Ayrton Senna (Brazil) 41, Nigel Mansell (Britain) 31, Jackie Stewart (Britain) 27, Jim Clark (Britain) and Niki Lauda (Austria), both 25.

Born in Balcarne in the province of Buenos Aires on June 24, 1911, Fangio was the son of a stonemason from a large family of Italian immigrants.

Starting work as an apprentice mechanic at the age of 13, he soon learned how to prepare and race cars with his brother Toto.

Fangio was also a good footballer, his teammates dubbing him "El Chueco" (bandy-legs), a nickname which stuck with him the world over. He was unmarried.

His racing debut came in a modified taxi on October 24, 1936, in a local race. During World War II, he achieved national fame in races over enormous distances on dirt roads normally used only by bullock carts.

But he had to wait until 1940 for his first win, the long-distance Grand Premio De Norte, an endurance event lasting several days from Buenos Aires over the Andes to Lima, Peru.

"That taught me about control, gave me the sensitivity to understand a car," he said. "Driving fast on mud roads, you have to feel the wheels through your backside."

Fangio was 38 when he started his professional racing career in Europe in 1948. Alfa Romeo subsequently contracted him for the inaugural world drivers' championship in 1950.

He won his first Grand Prix in his second race and drove to victory in two others that year. The following season he again won three, enough to take the first of his five titles.

He also took the crown in four successive years from 1954 to 1957, the first two with Mercedes and then Ferrari and Maserati.

Those were dangerous days for drivers and it was as much Fangio's achievement that he survived as that he won so often.

"Do you know," he said in 1990, "that in my 10 years of driving in Europe, I saw 30 of my friends and rivals killed?"

His most serious accident was in 1952 when he crashed his Maserati in the Monza Grand Prix, breaking his neck.

Many thought he was finished. But he was back the following season and then regained the world title for Maserati in 1954, retaining it for the next three years driving for Mercedes Benz, Ferrari and Maserati again.

His greatest victory came in 1957 German Grand Prix at the daunting Nuerburgring circuit.

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Colombia, Uruguay scrape to semis

MONTEVIDEO (Agencies) — Host Uruguay and resurgent Colombia kept their dreams of Copa America success alive Sunday by clinching a place in the semifinals. But both teams had to sweat to get there.

Colombia scored a second-half goal to draw even 1-1 and then outlasted Paraguay on penalties 5-4, securing the victory when goalkeeper Rene Higuita dived and punched away Paraguay's last attempt by Carlos Gamarra.

It was a resurrection for Higuita, who was dubbed the villain after allowing a goal on a lob from 30 yards against Peru and letting in a bizarre goal direct from a corner against Brazil on Thursday.

"It wasn't revenge," Higuita said. "I've always felt confident in what I do and I've never been short on faith."

"When it comes to penalties the pressure is on the player taking it. The goalkeeper is the winner if he saves it but if not, that's not a problem. Today it was my turn to win," he said.

Colombia's coach Hernan Dario Gomez said his team deserved to win in the 90 and that his team had definitively bounced back after a 3-0 loss Thursday to Brazil.

"This team has better tactics than the one which played in the World Cup finals," he said. "Every match we're getting better and better."

In the day's second game, Uruguay left its 40,000 fans in the stadium on edge when it nearly squandered a 2-0 lead over Bolivia. With 18 minutes left, Bolivia drew within a goal and had clear chances to equalise and send the match to a shootout.

Uruguay held on frantically to win 2-1.

The host nation, who have not pleased local critics with their performances, played excellently for the first 30 minutes, in which they scored twice.

They then reverted to the sterile, disjointed soccer which has angered their own fans throughout the competition, allowing Bolivia to pull a goal back and forcing their supporters to endure a tense finale.

Uruguay, once a power in international soccer, did not qualify for the last World Cup and are keen to win the Copa to revive their fortunes. They were edged out of the second qualifying place in their group by the Bolivians.

Uruguay made a dream start when striker Marcelo Otero scored in the second minute, receiving a nicely-flicked pass

from Enzo Francescoli and hitting the ball first time into the far corner of the goal.

Bolivia hardly had a look in for the next half hour as Uruguay, inspired in midfield by the veteran Francescoli, caused their defence endless suffering.

Midfielder Gustavo Poyet, who plays for Spanish club Real Zaragoza, missed two clearcut chances before Daniel Fonseca, of Italian club Roma, scored the second after half an hour.

Francescoli chipped a free kick over the Bolivian wall and Fonseca attempted to hook the ball into the goal. He did not make full contact but did enough to divert the ball beyond Bolivia goalkeeper Carlos Trucco.

Copa America

Fonseca injured himself as he stretched for the ball and had to be substituted by Ruben Sosa.

Sosa, a world class striker, seems to have been suffering the effects of an unhappy season with his Italian club Internazionale and has not played well in the Copa America.

Uruguay, who have hosted the competition six times before and won on every occasion, lost their rhythm after Fonseca went off.

The only time Sosa had a chance to score, early in the second half, his shot posed more of a threat to passing aircraft than to Bolivia's goal.

Bolivia, who exchanged their white shirts for green ones at halftime, came back with a new lease of life for the second 45 minutes.

Full-back Luis Cristaldo had already shaved the Uruguayan post with a low 20-metre shot before midfielder Oscar Sanchez pulled a goal back with 19 minutes left.

Marco Etcheverry floated a free kick across the area and Sanchez, who found himself unmarked, headed home from six metres.

That ensured a worrying end for the fans in the Centenario stadium, which for the first time in the tournament was nearly full, but Uruguay held on for a semi-final tie with Colombia on Wednesday.

Los Angeles still seen as Olympic model

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a sea of red ink in Montreal and a boycott that made the games in Moscow virtually an east bloc affair, Los Angeles got the Olympics nobody else wanted — and turned them into a rousing success.

The 1984 summer games revitalised the Olympic movement, established a fresh approach to the globe's biggest sports festival and, for two festive weeks that August, gave this city some of its finest moments.

With Tehran the only other city to lodge a bid, then backing out because of civil turmoil, Los Angeles staged the games practically without a hitch, even though the Soviets led their own boycott.

The Los Angeles Olympic organising committee, headed by marketing expert Peter Ueberroth, changed the financial foundation of the Games, for 1984 and beyond, by selling corporate sponsorships.

In addition to the \$225 million paid by ABC for the American television rights, another \$140 million came from corporate sponsors. Ticket sales exceeded expectations, nearly selling out, and topped \$100 million.

The first free-enterprise Olympics, with no government funding, also turned out to be the first profitable Olympics, finishing with \$225 million ahead.

"The uniqueness of the '84 Games had to do with the fact that we worked cooperatively with government,"

said Anita DeFranz, who was in charge of the Olympic athletes' housing at the University of Southern California 11 years ago and now is a member of the International Olympic Committee executive board. "We paid for extra services from government, such as security, but ours was a contractual relationship with government."

The profit also was possible because of the existing sports facilities in the sprawling Los Angeles area.

The coliseum, which was built in 1923 for \$600,000 and served as the centerpiece of LA's other Olympics — in 1932, was used for athletics and opening and closing ceremonies in 1984. Soccer was held at the Rose Bowl, basketball at the Forum, gymnastics at Pauley pavilion, volleyball at the Long Beach arena and wrestling at the Anaheim Convention Centre. Athletes were housed mostly at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of Southern California (USC).

A few new facilities were built, such as a swim stadium at USC and a velodrome in Dominguez Hills, but the cost was minimal because of corporate sponsorship.

The profit after the games was divided among the U.S. Olympic committee and various national sports federations, which received 60 per cent, and the (U.S.) Amateur Athletic Foundation in Los Angeles, which received the other 40 per cent.

way except for one lap during the final round of pit stops, when he gave it briefly back to the 24-year-old Canadian.

Italy's Teo Fabi was just behind Villeneuve in fourth, followed by Gordon, Brazilian Raul Boesel, Mexico's Andrian Fernandez and Canadian Paul Tracy.

The first 17 laps of the race were relatively uneventful except for a first-lap collision between Sweden's Stefan Johansson and American Bryan Herta that knocked Herta out of the race.

But it then got very busy as Al Unser Jr., the defending series champion and a former Toronto winner, tried to pass Rahal on the inside.

Andretti ends frustration with victory

TORONTO (AP) — Michael Andretti ended his season-long frustration by outduelling Bobby Rahal and winning Sunday's Toronto Molson Indy, his first victory since last year's Toronto race.

It was the fifth victory on the 2.86-kilometre, 11-turn temporary street circuit for Andretti, as well as the 30th career victory for the 33-year-old driver, the leading active winner on the Indy-car circuit.

"I love this place," Andretti said. "My crew did a great job today on pit strategy. That's what won us the race, and we had two great pit stops."

Andretti, son of longtime racing star Mario Andretti, saw his lead over compatriot Rahal bounce between 2½ seconds and one-tenth of a second over the last 30 laps of the 98-lap event.

But Rahal, a three-time series champion and 1986 Toronto winner, couldn't quite run down Andretti's Lola-Ford. The final margin was just 0.425-seconds, about three car-lengths.

"With about 15 laps to go, the water temperature was going off the clock," said Rahal, who also finished second here last year. "My crew said to be careful and back off. When I'd get close to him, the alarm went off. I'm just lucky to finish second."

Andretti's only real dangerous moment came on lap 76 when he was trailing the lapped cars of fellow Americans Danny Sullivan and Eddie Cheever and was just in front of Rahal.

Sullivan managed to squeeze by Cheever on the inside and Andretti's followed, but Cheever moved over and the two bumped, bouncing Andretti's rear off the concrete barrier. Rahal tried to drive around the slowing Andretti, but the leader recovered and stayed out front.

Jacques Villeneuve, a Canadian and the crowd favorite, started from the pole for the third straight race and wound up third, retaining his lead in what now appears to be a four-way battle for the PPG Cup championship.

With six races remaining, Villeneuve leads second-place Rahal 118-94, followed by fifth-place finisher Robby Gordon of the United States with 91 and Andretti 90.

Villeneuve led the first 23 laps before giving up the top spot to Andretti when he made his first pit stop. Andretti, the 1991 series champion, led the rest of the

way except for one lap during the final round of pit stops, when he gave it briefly back to the 24-year-old Canadian.

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Serbs threaten peacekeepers as world consults on action

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs maintained pressure on the Zepa enclave Monday while threatening peacekeepers and blasting another enclave with rockets as world opinion backed stiffer U.N. action in Bosnia.

Bosnian government defenders and Bosnian Serb forces traded mortars Monday west of the Zepa enclave but U.N. officials said fighting was limited.

In the northwest of the country another enclave, Bihac, was hit by two ground to ground missiles. There were reports of damage and casualties though this was not confirmed by the U.N. peacekeepers on the ground.

British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind meanwhile warned in Brussels that proposals to send fresh Western troops into Gorazde, one of two remaining U.N.-declared safe areas in eastern Bosnia, could founder if the U.S. did not provide attack and transport helicopters.

However, White House national adviser Anthony Lake said U.N. forces should take "more vigorous action" in the face of Serb attacks on safe areas.

U.S. government officials were to meet Monday with joint chiefs of staff chairman, General John Shalikashvili, to review his talks Sunday in London with French and British counterparts on Bosnia.

According to a White House spokesman however, these discussions failed to answer all the U.S. concerns about plans for Gorazde. Michael McCurry said Sunday's talks were a "substantive discussion over a variety of proposals."

The U.S. magazine Newsweek said Gen. Shalikashvili proposed flying 1,000 French troops to Gorazde in what would be the largest helicopter mission since the Vietnam war.

France wants part of the 12,000-strong rapid reaction force (RRF) deployed to prevent Gorazde falling into the hands of the Bosnian Serbs, who conquered Srebrenica last week and are now threatening Zepa.

This call for direct action initiated by President Jacques Chirac won support from some Euro-MPs and the French media.

Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was a lone voice calling for diplomacy to be given another chance. "Those who think all the political options have been explored are wrong," he said.

In the "acceleration of military action." In Zepa, a Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) company commander told Ukrainian peacekeepers manning a post just outside the enclave that they would be attacked if NATO planes appeared over the enclave, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said.

On Sunday, NATO airplanes roared over the threatened enclave in a show of force but took no action. NATO "air presence," as the U.N. terms it, was requested following BSA mortar and tank attacks on Zepa town where U.N. peacekeepers are based.

Bosnian army defenders of the threatened enclave claimed Monday to have repulsed Sunday's Serb attacks against the safe area. This was supported in part by U.N. assessments.

"Yes, there is resistance," said U.N. spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward. Zepa's defenders were armed with mortars but there was little the U.N. peacekeepers themselves could do to help. "We have NATO air power at our disposal but it is of limited utility," Gen. Coward said.

"They are holding the line. They have not moved. They do have mortars, we can only watch and see how the battle develops," the U.N. spokesman said.

U.N. observers put the BSA soldiers some 1.5 kilometres from the town itself. According to Bosnian radio Zepa's population of roughly 12,000 have been mobilised for the defence of the area.

The contact group is to chalk out concrete plans to save the U.N. safe havens for Bosnia's beleaguered Muslims, according to the officials at the 52-member, Jeddah-based organisation, umbrella for the world's Islamic nations.

The group comprises Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Senegal and the OIC secretary-general Hamid Al Ghab.

It will meet at ministerial level for one day under the chairmanship of Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali.

Iran, Egypt and Morocco have been lobbying for an emergency session of the contact group, which last met in Rabat in May.

Diplomatic sources said the OIC has been under tremendous pressure from several Muslim states to find ways to help Bosnia government from being routed by the encircling Serbs.

The 79 Ukrainian peacekeepers in Zepa have for the most part withdrawn into their main base in the town though a U.N. presence was still at three U.N. posts elsewhere in the enclave.

Meanwhile in Tuzla, where 30,000 people expelled by Bosnian Serbs after they overran the fallen Srebrenica enclave have settled, reports began to emerge of several thousand men having escaped the Bosnian Serb assault on the U.N. safe area.

The city's mayor, Selim Beslagic, was quoted by Bosnian independent radio as saying that 6,000 people had slipped away from last week's Serb assault including 3,500 soldiers who had begun to arrive in Tuzla.

Islamic group to meet

Meanwhile the nine-member contact group of the Organisation of Islamic Conference will hold an emergency meeting July 21 in Rabat, Morocco, on the worsening situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, officials said Monday.

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The 18-page law, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press, is to take effect in the Gaza Strip and West Bank on July 25, the day PLO and Israeli negotiators are scheduled to wrap up negotiations on extending self-rule to the West Bank.

The law, whose details were not previously revealed, was signed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on June 25 after being approved by his 18-member self-rule cabinet in Gaza a week earlier.

Hatem Abdul Qader, head of the publication department of the Palestinian information ministry, said the law was lenient "compared to laws in Syria, Egypt and Jordan."

He noted the Palestinians were not demanding stories be submitted to censors before publication — as does Israel in some cases.

"We are not restricting press operations. We are regulating it. Absolute freedom is anarchy," Mr. Abdul Qader said.

Hanan Ashrawi, a former Arafat spokeswoman who founded a commission to monitor Palestinian human rights and law enforcement, said her organisation was studying the document and had no immediate comment.

Article 2 of the law promises Palestinians the right to "express opinions freely in speech, writing and pictures through the media."

But Article 37 bans publication of "secret information" on police or other PLO troops — including the types of weapons they use, their ammunition, bases, training camps and deployments.

The penalty for violating the ban is suspension of a publication for up to three months in addition to fines and a jail term of up to six months.

Mr. Arafat ordered the closure of an Islamic fundamentalist weekly for 30 days and another for 40 days earlier this year. He banned circulation of the Jerusalem-based An Nahar last year for 40 days, forcing the closure of the paper for that period.

Besides Mr. Hutchings, the other four hostages are Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, German Dirk Haset and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro.

Indian authorities, who have maintained a studied silence on the demand by Al Faran, denounced the latest threat and urged the militants to free the hostages on humanitarian grounds.

"It is unfortunate they are making these threats when the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Amnesty International and all (other) militants in Kashmir have condemned the kidnappings," a government spokesman said in New Delhi.

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ROYAL VISIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday paid field visits to several army units and formations. Prince Hassan's visit included several of the air defence units and the artillery corps of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division. The Crown Prince was briefed by the commanders of the formations and units on the progress of training programmes and was familiarised with duties assigned to them. The Prince also watched military exercises and took part in some training activities. Earlier in the day, Prince Hassan visited Al Hussein Air College and met with

young students participating in Al Hussein Air Camps. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the youth in building the future of the country and briefed them on the role of the Armed Forces in enhancing the feelings of belonging and safeguarding the Kingdom's democracy. The Crown Prince also talked about Jordanian-Palestinian relations and affirmed Jordan's keenness to continue its support for the Palestinian people. The Prince concluded his tour by visiting the Fifth Royal Armoured Division Command and meeting its senior officers.

Palestinian press law bars reports on police activities

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Monday unveiled a press law that includes limits on reporting about Palestinian police operations and threatens violators with fines and jail terms.

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"It is unfortunate they are making these threats when the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Amnesty International and all (other) militants in Kashmir have condemned the kidnappings," a government spokesman said in New Delhi.

The previous killings of foreigners took place on June 7, when two French nationals, Louis and Gaby Jourdan, were shot.

The latest assassination comes at a time when the Algerian press had noted a fresh outbreak of violence, including murders and sabotage, during recent days.

In the meantime, military court sentenced a journalist from the Algerian press agency, APS, to three years in prison for having divulged confidential information, the daily El Watan reported Monday.

Hadji Benaamane was sentenced last Wednesday in Tamanrasset for having disclosed where the number two of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Ali Belhadj, was being detained. The information was classified as a "defence secret," El Watan said.

IAF says it was winner in last week's municipal elections

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front Party Monday described the win of 25 out of 68 of its candidates in last week's municipal elections as a victory and that the final results in Zarqa were not representative of the movement's popularity.

"We are surprised to hear from the minister of municipal affairs, Nader Thuheirat, that the percentage of Islamic success in the elections was only three per cent," said IAF General Secretary Isahq Farhan at a press conference held at the party's headquarters.

"The percentage of those who won should be in relation to the number of candidates the party fielded in the elections and not on the total number of members and mayors of the 259 councils."

Dr. Farhan said that in the capital, the party named seven candidates but only three won; in Kerak, the party's six candidates all won; in Madaba, seven out of ten candidates won; in Irbid, only four out of ten won; in Aqaba, two out of six candidates won; in Mafrqa, one out of nine candidates won. In Tafleeh all six candidates lost; and in Jerash two out of six candidates won.

As for Zarqa and Ruseifeh, where the IAF was harshly defeated and IAF candidates won, Dr. Farhan said the party withdrew its candidates from both cities in protest of what he said was the "government's flagrant interference" in the elections.

Dr. Farhan said that in the case of the two candidates who won in Ruseifeh and who decided to hold office despite the IAF's withdrawal decision will be studied and "a severe action will be taken against them" by the party's leadership.

The front said its participation in the municipal elections was a partial, and that the number of candidates who won were one third of the total number of candidates the front named.

"Our participation in the elections was only meant as a test for the government's credibility," said Abdullah Alkhalil, a Lower House of Parliament deputy. "Our expectations turned out to be true."

Dr. Farhan claimed that the government facilitated procedures for pro-government candidates and put obstacles in front of other candidates, especially the IAF's.

"What the government did, and especially in Zarqa, has very serious implications on the country," he said. "These actions could make the government lose its credibility at the national and international levels when talking about enhancing democracy in Jordan."

Trade sanctions on Iraq were extended last month for another 60-day period on grounds that Iraq had not accounted for missing biological weapons materials.

President Bill Clinton spoke by telephone with the two Americans and told them he was "ecstatic" at their release, the White House said.

Presidential Press Secretary Mike McCurry said Mr. Clinton had reached the two at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Amman, "congratulated both of them on enduring this ordeal."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Sunday called the prisoners release "an important first step" that would not necessarily lead to the lifting of the sanctions.

Iraq's compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions is up for review in two months.

The two Americans who work for U.S. defence contractors were arrested inside Iraq on March 13 after crossing illegally into Iraq from Kuwait. After their arrest, they said that they had been on a trip to visit friends among U.N. military observers in the border's demilitarised zone. Iraq at the time said that the two may have been involved in espionage.

During a press conference at the American embassy in Amman both men appeared happy but healthy, and reassured that they were innocent victims.

"A mistake was made and we spent four months in jail," Mr. Barloon said. "We thank the government for our efforts and we are so happy."

Both men said they were "treated more than fairly" over the course of the four months. Earlier during three imprisonment, there was concern that the health of the two, who suffer from heart problems, was being neglected. But Mr. Daliberti said, "We had medical facilities and an ambulance on stand-by. They were very concerned with our well-being." (See story page 2).

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Queen Elizabeth on diet — paper

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who has been praised for keeping her figure over the years, has been put on a low-fat diet, the Daily Mail reported Monday.

Doctors told her to switch to the low-cholesterol diet, cutting out dairy products and eggs, after she complained of tiredness, the newspaper said. It said the queen, 69, who does not smoke and reportedly eats and drinks in moderation, had put on a little weight.

"She is certainly missing some of her favourite foods," the newspaper quoted an unidentified source at Buckingham Palace as saying.

Tears as Imran's wife leaves for new life

LONDON (R) — British heiress Jemima Goldsmith was in tears with her family as she left for a new life with her bridegroom, Pakistani cricket idol Imran Khan. "Don't worry — I'll look after her," Khan promised Goldsmith's mother, Lady Annabel Goldsmith, as she embraced her daughter at London's Heathrow Airport. The newlyweds, who went through separate religious and secular ceremonies in Paris and Britain last month, were passing through Saudi Arabia to visit relatives before heading for Khan's home in Pakistan.

Woman thief undone as she reveals all

TOKYO (R) — A woman who had her blouse ripped off when she tried to rob a taxi driver was arrested after witnesses saw her fleeing half-naked. Japanese police said. Hiromi Mikami, 25, tried to snatch a bag containing around 50,000 yen (\$600) in taxi fares from Takayuki Chiba, 55, in the city of Sapporo on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island. Her blouse was ripped off in the tussle that followed, and police, arrested her after witnesses reported seeing a naked woman running through the streets.

Vatican summons bishop over celibacy comments

DUBLIN (AP) — An Irish bishop who said the Roman Catholic Church will have to consider allowing priests to marry, has been summoned to the Vatican, Press Association reported Sunday. Bishop Brendan Comiskey of the Ferns Diocese in County Wexford said last month that the church has to consider change in the celibacy rule to halt the fall in recruitment to the ministry. Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Irish primate, publicly rebuked Bishop Comiskey after the comments were published in an interview in Dublin's Sunday Tribune. "Where there is no priest, there is no eucharist. Where there is no eucharist, there is no church," Bishop Comiskey was quoted as saying. "Options are running out for diocesan priests. This is not a theological issue. Everything that is alive changes, and these changes aren't all that radical."

He was quoted as saying, "You already have married Anglican priests, converts to Catholicism, ministers in London, parishes, so we can't hold the line on that." Press Association, the British news agency, said Sunday that Bishop Comiskey has been ordered to attend a meeting in Rome to clarify his position on the celibacy issue. After Cardinal Daly's criticism, Bishop Comiskey wrote in the Irish Times, "our priests are greatly distressed, and in some instances demoralised, by a series of sexual scandals involving the clergy and by the legitimate, if extremely painful, questions coming from a confused and bewildered laity."

Police jobs 'saved' by riots

BELFAST (AFP) — Rioting in several towns in Northern Ireland this month have prompted the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) to maintain its current staff levels, the RUC said. Cuts to the force had been envisaged as one of the dividends of the peace process which began last year with ceasefires by the Irish Republican Army and loyalist paramilitary groups.

Israeli FM to visit Iraq, Kuwait

RUWAI CITY (AFP) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Nasser bin Nasser is due to visit Iraq and Kuwait in August, a senior Kuwaiti official said here Tuesday. Kuwait's visit was part of a series of visits by Kuwaiti officials to Iraq and Kuwait in August.

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